

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

Owen Taylor, Editor (owen@agfax.com, 888-327-6329)

June 17, 2003

Here is this week's issue of *RiceFax*, sponsored by the Midsouth and Texas staff of Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of Regiment® and Bolero® rice herbicides.

## OVERVIEW

Much of our coverage area has received saturating rains in the last week, including parts of Texas and south Louisiana that had been bone dry through much of the spring. With the rain and humidity, disease is showing up in both the coastal and Delta areas. Some leaf blast was reported in Arkansas, and sheath blight is being treated on a scattered basis in Texas and Louisiana. Stinkbugs are being sprayed in south Louisiana.

These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

## TEXAS/S. LA

**Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas:** "We've been pounded pretty heavily by rain over the last several days. Here at the sta-

tion we got 2" in 45-60 minutes yesterday (Monday), and it blew out levees. That was pretty common in the area. Two miles north of here they got 6" of rain.

"Rice ranges from late seedling to PD. Most is between PD and heading. I was in a field of Cocodrie today that was nearly 75% headed. Sheath blight is starting to come in on the bottom, and it's going to get worse if we don't get dry weather soon. Some fungicides are going out.

"We've had a few calls about grasshoppers on heads. It's not a widescale problem. The next thing will be stinkbugs. We don't have much rice far enough along for them to be a problem yet.

"A reminder: our field day here is July 1 starting at 4 p.m."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "We've got 2 big problems, stinkbugs and rain, and one complicates the other one. Stinkbugs are piling up wherever rice is headed and need to be treated. But pilots are having to work around the rain. They've delayed applications

in some cases, which gives stinkbugs more time to work over those heads. If they go ahead and treat, there's a chance it will rain right away and wash off the material. The rain also could inhibit pollination and grain set, with or without insect pressure.

"We're to the point that we're advising a lot of people to spray if there's maybe only an hour to 90-minute window before it rains. There's enough stinkbug activity that they've got to treat and reduce populations as much as possible, then take their chances with the rain.

"Disease pressure has not picked up dramatically. Last week, we made one fungicide recommendation on a verification field. We're holding off treatment on a couple of fields to get by with one application. We know we can't afford 2 shots. The longer we can wait, the longer the application will carry us. If we go past 50% heading and haven't sprayed, then we won't treat at all. Some fields are past that point, so we won't treat.

"A reminder: the Crowley field day is June 26, starting at 8 a.m."

Continued on next page



*Regiment* and *Bolero* are registered trademarks of Kumiai Chemical Company Industry, Ltd. For information on *Regiment*, *Bolero* and our other products in rice, cotton, soybeans and peanuts visit our website, [www.valent.com](http://www.valent.com), or call toll-free, 800-6-VALENT (682-5368). Always follow label directions.

## Tough Weeds Demand A Tough Solution

Applied pre- or post-flood, *Regiment*® is the only rice herbicide that offers consistent control of barnyardgrass — even resistant biotypes. Plus, you gain bonus control of hemp sesbania, indigo, rice flatsedge, johnsongrass and many aquatic and broadleaf weeds. Its application window stretches from the 3-leaf stage in rice until green ring.

Got tough weeds? Not anymore.

*RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas* is published by Looking South Communications, 142 Westlake Drive, Brandon, Miss. 39047.

Phone: 601-992-9488, Fax: 601-992-3503. E-mail: [owen@agfax.com](mailto:owen@agfax.com). Editor: Owen Taylor. It is transmitted via fax or e-mail each week during the rice production season. *RiceFax* is free to growers, consultants, dealers and other qualifying rice industry workers.

©MMIII Looking South Communications

(To download a schedule, go to [agfax.com/updates/la/crowley.pdf](http://agfax.com/updates/la/crowley.pdf).)

**Blaine Koch, Accounting Manager and Grain Merchandiser, G&H Seed Co., Crowley, La.:** “Rice is heading now, and we keep getting these showers. In the past 2 weeks we’ve gone from too dry to too wet, and there’s more concern about disease pressure now. The crop, overall, looks good. We had a little field tour last Thursday to look at some of the hybrids and Clearfield varieties, and it all looked very promising. We’ve got about 30,000 acres of Clearfield rice in south Louisiana.”

## MIDSOUTH

**Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension Agent, Bastrop, La.:** “Overall, the rice looks good. But we’ve got a few fields where growers are forced to treat by ground due to sensitive crops around them, and the weather has delayed herbicide applications. We’ve got some vines and sesbania growing up in the rice. We can still control them, but rates will be higher now.”

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** “We’ve picked up a little leaf blast in Prairie County and several other counties. That’s got us a little nervous since 70% of our acreage is susceptible, and this rainy, overcast weather means that conditions are rife for problems. We need to maintain fields at about a 4" flood and not any less than that.

“With low to moderate pressure over the last 8-9 years it’s been reasonably controllable. If we have an epidemic, it’s hard to say how effective we can be in holding it back. What we’ve found is that it takes 2 full rate treatments of Quadris, which is a \$50/acre program.

“A couple of things perhaps

make this a different scenario from 1986 with Newbonnet and all the problems we had then. First, all we had was Benlate. Second, these newer varieties appear to respond better to this deep-flood strategy. The bottom line: we’ve got to look for it and be prepared to act.

“The other thing we’re facing now is the potential for herbicide drift with all the late soybeans. It’s been real wet, and people haven’t been able to spray. By the end of next week a big part of our rice will be at midseason. At that point, glyphosate drift isn’t just a nuisance. It can cut yields pretty badly. We’d better be careful.”

**Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.:** “Rainfall in the last week ranged from 2.5" at Shaw up to 6" at Shelby where they’ve already gotten about 20" this spring. You hate to gripe about rain this time of the year because you sure know what it’s like to be too dry, and I think we can get in and clean up things pretty good. But we could use 7-8 days of dry, sunny weather.

“Rice looks great. We have some at or just past midseason, but our later planted fields do need dry weather to wrap up pre-flood herbicide and nitrogen work.

“It’s wet, cloudy and humid. Today (Tuesday) is about the most humid day we’ve had. We’re going to have to watch closely for disease. Conditions are just about ideal for it.”

**Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.:** “Most rice is flooded and has pre-flood N applied. We had just started to apply midseason N to our early fields when it started raining again. Smartweed has been very difficult this year, and we’ll have to rethink our products for controlling it.

Rice looks very good, but every crop we have needs sunshine.”

**David Strohl, Aerial Applicator/Grower, Skarda Flying Service, Inc., Tollville, Ark.:** “Rice, overall, looks good. Joints are sitting at .5" in some of our earliest fields. We could use more sunshine and warm temperatures, though.

“We just got 2" to 2.5" of rain in the Tollville area. It rained earlier in the week but nothing like this. A lot of midseason applications have been going out since the middle of last week, and about 75% of our rice is ready for midseason now.

“We saw what may be the start of some sheath blight, and I just found what appears to be a small amount of leaf blast (Tuesday afternoon). Conditions have certainly been ideal for disease, and we’ve got rain in the forecast through Saturday.”

**John Hedden, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Service, McCrory, Ark.:** “Our earliest rice is just hitting green ring. We’re in pretty good shape. We lost maybe 100 acres to backwater that won’t be replanted. We made our 2nd shot of Newpath on most of the Clearfield rice.

“We’re in pretty good shape with herbicides. A lot of Regiment and Ricestar went out to clean up escapes, and we’re starting to do Grandstand and 2,4D. We’re at midseason on about half our crop.

“We need warmer temperatures and sunny skies. We made an early start on some rice, but with the cool weather we’re still hitting green ring about when we usually do. I’m not as concerned about the cool weather, though, as I might have been a couple of years ago. Last May and June were cooler and wetter than normal, but 3-4 of my growers still had record yields. So, it could turn out okay.”