

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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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

In Texas and south Louisiana the crop continues to run behind. Johnny Saichuk in Louisiana said rice in the southern parishes seems short for this point in the season.

In the upper Midsouth, growers are still coping with the effects of too much rainfall. In NE Arkansas, numerous fields remain under water. In parts of north Mississippi, planting lags behind due to wet conditions.

The following reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

TEXAS/SOUTH LA.

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "Rice in south Louisiana is much shorter than it should be at this stage. I was in a number of fields today with several different

varieties, and I saw this in every location. It appears to be about 15% shorter than we'd expect now that we're at and beyond midseason.

"We've got to shift into our disease monitoring in south Louisiana. I found a little sheath blight last week in Acadia Parish where seed drifted together and the stand was too thick. This unseasonably cool weather will help slow disease development, but we still need to be looking."

DeWayne Dopslauf, Agri-liance, Wharton, Texas: "Our rice is looking good, and we're making pre-flood fertilizer applications and going to a flood on a lot of it. We have a little broadleaf activity to clean up. We still haven't had a significant rain in 2 months. That's not hurting the rice, but things look awful where they can't water the row crops."

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "About 20% of our rice is at flood now. Typically, we should have had nearly 100% at flood 1-2 weeks ago. That indicates how far behind this season is running. More acreage is going to flood, and

the situation is looking better every day. We've got some thinner stands that are tillering and filling in. Our oldest rice is into PD.

"Showers have continued to develop north of our production area, and some rice is still being flushed."

MIDSOUTH

Rudy Randleman, Rudy's Field Service, Paragould, Ark.: "Things are drying up, and we're trying to get back to work. We started putting out pre-flood fertilizer last Friday, and we've been making cleanup sprays. Our rice looks good right now. Everything has been kept pretty clean. We're mainly treating broadleaf weeds. Less than 5% is at flood."

Allen McKnight, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.: "We're in the process of taking out broadleaf weeds and flooding up a good bit of acreage. Also, we're picking up chinch bugs and getting hit pretty hard in spots. We've treated a couple of fields where we couldn't get the water on fast enough."

Curt Johnson, CRC Ag Con-

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sulting, LLC, Lake Village, Ark.: “We’re cleaning up and getting the flood established on our first rice. We’ve pretty much got everything sprayed and are coming back with fertilizer and the flood on a good bit of it. Rain around Grady caused problems getting applications made.

“We measured 13” in the last 3 weeks, and now cotton is coming up, which complicates application work a little more. I made treatment recommendations on May 12 that have just been finished in the last 3 days. I had to raise Aim and Permit rates a bit on some fields.

“Cold temperatures have had an effect on rice. It’s not growing as fast as it can. We’ve been trying to push it where possible with a shallow flood. We’ll come back with Regiment, Aim, Grandstand or Permit, with some combinations, as needed.

“I have several fields with johnsongrass. In a couple of fields last year the rhizome johnsongrass fell over on rice and took it down, and we may come back with Regiment this year where we’ve got potential problems. I’m telling my growers that we’ll see how much seedling johnsongrass gets by the propanil, then spot spray it if that’s an option.”

Hugh Whitby, Rice Consultant, Agriliance, Blackfish, Ark.: “We got up to 12” of rain in 7-10 days. The water is coming down, and the rice that has had water on it is beginning to recover now that the sun is shining. A lot of it still looks sick, though. We’re putting out fertilizer to help it get going, and most of it probably will be okay.

“If we hadn’t had the rain, 95% of it would be ready for the pre-flood fertilizer and the flood. But only a small percentage of our crop is healthy enough right now to spray and take to flood.

“We didn’t have any fields dry enough for pre-flood work until last Thursday. Some of the Command is holding well, and we’ve got fields that are fairly clean. But we’ve also got a varied mix of weeds in many fields, and there’s no ‘prescription’ program for herbicides this season.”

Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: “We’ve gone almost a week without a rain after getting 14.5” in the previous 2 weeks, including 9.5” in one chunk. The rain, plus the cool weather has slowed things down. Rice has been under water, and a lot still looks sickly. The rain held up a lot of planting. In Quitman County, only 10% of the rice has been planted due to rain and flooding.

“The crop is fairly clean after coming through all this weather. Conditions have been nearly ideal for Facet, Command or Prowl. Smartweed is the only thing I’ve seen that’s a big problem yet, and a lot of Regiment is going out to get it and also pick up some big barnyardgrass. Where growers have mixed grasses, we’re hitting it with Aim and then will come back with Clincher.

“One grower made an interesting observation. He said that 5 years ago we would have disked up the grass and planted beans. We’ve got some fields with six-leaf and tillered barnyardgrass that had already emerged when the preemergence materials were applied. If anything, signalgrass has gotten to be an even bigger problem in recent years. But we’ve got some tools now that allow us to stick with the rice.”

Bruce Beck, Extension Regional Agronomist/Rice, Butler, Mo.: “With all the rain, it’s been about a month since people in this county have been able to do much in the field. Now, after a week without

rain, there’s a lot of flying out there. Herbicides and nitrogen are going out. We got about 90% of the rice planted early, although at this point I’m not sure how much more will be planted. The cool weather has slowed it down some, but the rice didn’t seem to mind the rain.”

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: “We’ve got fields that remain flooded — some pretty deeply — in parts of Poinsette, Cross and Mississippi Counties. Ideally, we don’t like rice to be submerged for more than 10 days, and 14 days is kind of on the edge. These fields are approaching 10 days now.

“As the water goes down, decisions are being made about whether it will survive and what needs to be done. Once it dries out, we’ll have to start over again on building levees and weed control. We’re getting asked about variety selection where rice is still being planted.

“Rice outside of flooded areas looks decent. We’re fighting grass problems here and there. Planes are putting out fertilizer as fast as they can, and a lot of wells have started. I’m still hearing reports of a few lespedeza worms where Icon wasn’t used or where treated and untreated rice was blended. Blending works okay with water weevils if the total rate is what it should be. But it doesn’t work for lespedeza worms.”

Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.: “The crop is coming along. People are fertilizing and flooding on a wider basis now. The calls today are about Roundup drift, which is associated, I suspect, with too much wind and too little time to get some things done. I’m in a field right now that’s my 4th or 5th today with what looks like Roundup symptoms.”