

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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Here is this week's *RiceFax*, sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, maker of Clincher®, Stam® and Grandstand® herbicides.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and comments, and we appreciate the help of all the Extension workers, consultants and dealer personnel who provide our reports each week.

Owen Taylor
Editor, *RiceFax*

OVERVIEW

Last week's heavy rainfall in the upper Midsouth continues to delay planting and stall crop development. Parts of Arkansas measured 5-10" of rain, and the lower Missouri Bootheel caught up to 7" in spots. Those areas were mostly dry a week ago, and a little flushing had actually started. With all the rain, at least a few fields are under water.

Somewhat drier conditions pre-

vailed in the south Delta.

The crop continues to progress in coastal Louisiana and Texas. A few more fields in Texas are going to flood. South Louisiana growers and applicators are catching up on herbicide work after wind shut down most spraying last week.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

TEXAS/S. LOUISIANA

DeWayne Dopslauf, Agri-liance, Wharton, Texas: "The rice really looks good. Command activated early this year, and it's holding. We're starting to spray a few broadleaf weeds now. None of my rice is holding a flood yet, but I'm seeing some older fields here and there that are. A lot of guys had Icon on their seed, so rice water weevil really hasn't been a factor. We're finding a little grass and some Texas panicum now and are considering our treatment options now."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana

Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "Nothing much is going on except a lot of spraying. The wind finally died down, and people are making applications that should have gone out last week. We did find rice water weevils in one field sprayed with Karate last week. They were lethargic, so maybe we're seeing somewhat slower control due to cooler weather or maybe this is residual activity working on them. So far, though, this has been a light weevil year – nothing pressing.

"Cooler temperature have kept rice moving a little slower, but at least it's still moving. When the weather warms up, it should go faster. Rainfall over the weekend varied from 2-4". Ground spraying in some cases had to wait until some of the water moved off the fields."

MIDSOUTH

Ross Wood, Manager and
Continued on next page



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Certified Crop Advisor, Almyra Farmers, Almyra, Ark.: "We got about 4" of rain over a 7-day period. The people who already had rice in the ground couldn't have asked for anything better. Growers who had herbicides down were going to have to flush. This last activation has helped take out some two-leaf grass that we would have been skeptical about controlling. We've still got some grass a little past the two-leaf stage, and we'll be coming back for that.

"With some of our bigger rice at the two- and three-leaf stage we're coming in with ammonium sulfate or DAP to get a little nitrogen boost."

Hugh Whitby, Rice Consultant, Agriliance, Blackfish, Ark.: "We're terribly wet. Starting last Wednesday, we got 6.5" to 7" of rain on a pretty wide area. We were about two-thirds planted by then. The rivers are backing up now (Monday), so we're going to have some fields under water. Before Wednesday, it had been dry enough that we actually were about to start flushing rice. It's beginning to seem kind of typical for this time of the year - it's either too dry or too wet and nothing in between.

"If it doesn't rain any more, it will be the first half of next week before we get back in the field."

Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: "The crop looks really good. We only got half an inch of rain at the farm with this last front, although Clarksdale is a good bit wetter. We weren't bone dry like they've been

from Cleveland south, but the rain came at a good time. They got hit with more rain closer to Memphis, starting on Thursday, but a good deal of the crop north of us has been planted.

"A fair amount of herbicide work will be underway this week. A number of people left off a preemergence on early fields. Forecasts called for cold, wet weather, and they figured it could take two weeks, at least, for rice to come up. So, why put anything into a residual at that point? Plus the grass wouldn't be growing very much, either."

Amy Beth Dowdy, ABD Crop Consulting, Dexter, Mo.: "Rainfall amounts have varied quite a bit. To the north, we got 2-3". But where I am today along the state line just north of Blytheville, it rained 5-7". We were at the point that growers were going to have to flush everything. It had gotten that dry, and a few people already had started their pumps. Now we're having to run more ditches to get water off fields. It's still a better situation. I hated to tell anyone to flush, considering diesel prices.

"We've probably finished 85-90% of our planting. Much of what's left are fields that are still being graded. It's remarkable to be this far along so early. Hopefully we'll get warmer weather now and move the crop along"

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "I've gotten calls from growers in some of the flooded areas asking if they should

water-seed some rice to make up for any rice that they lose. I'm cautioning them to wait and see how it looks. If seed already had germinated and had a little shoot, then they may be okay. But if they planted the day before it flooded then perhaps I'd be a little more nervous about it.

"The fact is, we still have time in a good planting window to give what we've already planted a chance. Some rice will need to be replanted, but not everything. The flooding is worse in northeast Arkansas. In areas along the White River at Batesville they got close to 10", and the river is well above flood stage. That's affecting Independence and Jackson Counties and even parts of Prairie County.

"In south Arkansas the rain didn't amount to as much. At Eudora they only got a quarter-inch and, if anything, it's too dry there."

Tim Walker, Assistant Rice Research Professor, Stoneville, Miss.: "Rainfall amounts over the weekend ended up being pretty scattered. In north Mississippi some folks had 4-5", but areas in the south Delta only got .1" to .6", and growers may still need to flush.

"We're probably through planting south of U.S. 82. Statewide, I'd estimate that we're 65-70% planted. I've had a call or two about seedling disease with rice planted in March that got caught by cold weather. Overall, we've got everything from two-leaf rice to some that's just coming up."