

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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

OVERVIEW

Most of the Midsouth has been through at least one round of rainfall in the last week, and parts of the region have picked up 2-4" of precipitation. Texas irrigation suppliers can't keep up with the demand for water needed to flood all the rice that's ready. More of the crop in coastal Louisiana and Texas is approaching PD.

Wind continues to play havoc with herbicide work in the Midsouth. More rice is going to flood without further treatments, and growers will deal with vegetation later. Or, in some cases, they are applying broadleaf materials ahead of the flood and will work on grass post-flood. Delays also are forcing growers to apply fertilizer in moist or muddy conditions so they can put on the flood.

These reports were made Mon-

day afternoon and Tuesday.

TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

David Mitchell, M&M Air Service, Beaumont, Texas: "It's been 2 weeks since we've had significant rainfall through the area. Mostly, we've had hot winds out of the southwest and high humidity. We're now into a lot of the second applications of Newpath and have started more topdressing.

"A few growers say that joints are moving and they can find tiny heads in the sheaths. That's in rice planted in March before all the rain started. At that rate, we'll have our earliest fields about ready for harvest in late July or early August. But we also have people who are still planting. Liberty County, in particular, has had some long delays.

"With the Newpath we're also mixing in a little Facet and, where armyworms are showing up, adding Mustang or Karate."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "Several fields have a problem we haven't iden-

tified. At first it looked like potassium or sulfur deficiency or maybe hydrogen sulfide toxicity. But it's actually none of those things. Plants start dying and disappearing, and lower leaves have a bronze cast. Applying potassium helps in some cases, but the only consistent remedy is draining and drying fields, and that's tough to ask growers to do now.

"We started picking up heavy sheath blight in some Clearfield 161. That's not surprising, but it is early. That rice is just a couple of days from PD. We'll eventually have to treat but will delay as long as we can. Conditions are ideal for sheath blight — thunderstorms everywhere and high humidity."

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "We're trying to get fertilizer out and flood up a lot of rice. The biggest problem is that the irrigation companies can't keep up with demand. A few weeks ago we had too much water, and now we can't get rice flooded fast enough."

Continued on next pages



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If you're dealing with tough broadleaf weeds such as indigo, hemp sesbania, morningglory, alligatorweed and Texasweed, it makes sense to add **Grandstand® R** herbicide to your pre-flood tank mix.

● From the two- to three-leaf stage of rice growth, **Grandstand** in the tank will control tough broadleaves.

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“Normally, from the time of the request it takes 3 days to get water. Now, it’s running 8-10 days. In some cases growers are initially getting enough water to wet the ground. They’re being told that they will get more on the next round.

“Overall, rice looks pretty good across the belt. We have a lot of rice going to PD.”

MIDSOUTH

Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.: “Rice looks great. We’ve got about 80% at flood now. Another 10-15% would have been going to flood now, too, but the rain will delay us a little. This last system brought 1.5" to 2" from Shelby to Shaw and over past Ruleville and Drew. Last week areas around Winstonville and Shelby north got 2.5". It probably will be later this week before we get much more fertilizer out. We’re spraying right now for adult rice water weevils.”

David Hydrick, Hydrick’s Crop Consulting, Inc., Jonesboro, Ark.: “If you didn’t have some form of preemergence program, you’ve probably got a mess on your hands. There are fields of solid grass where nothing was used. You can forget Arrosolo and Stam up here. It’s just not going to happen. Pilots won’t spray, and with 20 mph winds who can blame them? The conditions are working against us. We can get out some Aim or Londax for broadleaf weeds, but we’ll have to go back with Ricestar or Clincher for grass.

“Roundup drift continues to be a problem in rice. I’ve seen some move three-quarters of a mile across a rice field this year. We’ve probably flooded 40% of our rice. If rain last week hadn’t delayed fertilizer work, we’d have more flooded now.”

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas

Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: “Rainfall has been patchy, from a tenth of an inch up to 3-4" in places. The biggest delay, though, is the wind. It just doesn’t want to quit. Some guys are applying fertilizer and flooding up, then they’ll worry about putting out Clincher later.

“There’s also that challenge of getting Newpath on Clearfield rice without affecting conventional rice. It can be as bad as Roundup, and sometimes it’s hard to tell which one drifted. Decisions are being made now about how to get that second application out.

“A lot of people are dealing with situations where there’s no clearcut choice. I just talked to a grower who got 1.5" of rain. He doesn’t have any grass right now, and he could fertilize and flood. But the ground is wet enough that he probably won’t get the full benefit of his fertilizer. If he spoon-feeds it, he’s looking at another 100 pounds plus application costs.

“But if he waits until the ground dries out, grass will emerge and he’ll probably be making another herbicide application. And he’s also looking at a 60% chance of rain. So, if he waits and it rains, he’ll be even further behind, plus have more grass.

“There’s no perfect scenario, and we’ve got plenty of similar situations. I’d hoped after this last rain that the wind would die down. But it already was hitting 15-20 mph at 8:30 a.m. today.”

Tim Walker, Assistant Rice Research Professor, Stoneville, Miss.: “Even with tough spraying conditions last week, people made some progress toward getting fields flooded. We have 50-70% flooded or being pumped up. A lot of fertilizer work got done last week.

“With all the drying winds this year, I’ve seen a good deal of stress in heavy clay soils. The top 2" crusted, and that put roots in a

dry environment. I’ve seen plants on the station and in farmers’ fields that almost appeared to have herbicide injury. In fact, it was drought stress. With fertilizer and flooding, plants bounced back pretty quickly.”

Tommy Baine, UAP Delta, Tunica, Miss.: “We picked up 1.5" of rain out of this last system, plus a good deal of wind. The wind, in general, has played havoc with herbicide work. We’ve missed some propanil treatments and will have to make it up with Clincher. Most people are applying their first shot of fertilizer and are beginning to flood up. A lot of our rice had Icon, but we’re also about to begin some rice water weevil treatments.”

Ross Wood, Manager and Certified Crop Advisor, Almyra Farmers, Almyra, Ark.: “We’re trying to get more rice fertilized and flooded, but there are a lot of fields we can’t spray. It’s so windy, there’s nothing we can do. A lot of it will get sprayed with Clincher, and we’ll worry about broadleaf weeds later. Where we can spray, we’re following with fertilizer the same day. A bunch of fields are growing up because there are beans on the north end and we’ve had 10-25 mph winds out of the south to southeast with hardly any let up.

“Fertilizer is going out in fields that are moist but not muddy. That’s not the way we like to do it, of course, but we’ve been pushed into a corner. Most growers are saying at this point that they’ll just have to absorb the extra fertilizer cost. Some rice joints are just beginning to move, and we’ve only had water on those fields for 5 days. This year we’ve had to make tough decisions about fertilizer and herbicide work.”