

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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Here is this week's *RiceFax*, sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, maker of **Clincher**[®] herbicide.

OVERVIEW

More rain developed over the weekend, and by Tuesday night most of our coverage area received at least some accumulation. We're hearing reports of "mystery" disorders on a wider basis this week in both the coastal and Midsouth production areas.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "We're getting rain today (Tuesday), mainly east of Houston, and some pretty severe flooding has been reported around Houston. Parts of our production area got 3-4" a little more than a week ago, but some areas had just about gotten dry again.

"If this pattern keeps up, disease could really develop. We're

going to have to watch close, scout regularly and be ready to treat.

"In about 5 counties we're trying to figure out why some plants are exhibiting odd growth patterns. We're in that rapid internode elongation phase, and something is causing plants to lose the lubrication inside the sheath. It's blowing out the head on the side, and plants are taking on a buggy whip appearance. That last leaf isn't unfurling, and it looks something like an onion leaf.

"I haven't found a common denominator. It's showing up in several varieties. None of this rice has had a chemical treatment in 3-4 weeks. It's not affecting whole fields, just 5-10% of the plants.

"The latest crop estimates indicate that 6-8% of our anticipated crop this year will not be planted. The total is about 192,000 acres. A lot of our crop is just past PD. At the rate things are going, the majority of our harvest will start around the first week of August, although we've got 5% that may be ready in July."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana

Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "We're still dealing with our mystery disorder, and symptoms are evident in a lot of fields. We still don't have a good handle on what's causing this.

"We've got rice in boot now. I'm very surprised at the fairly light disease pressure in our research verification fields. We've only treated one for sheath blight. With the rain and heat, that could change. So far, though, we've been lucky. I saw 2 fields today (Tuesday) in flower. That tells me we'll be treating stinkbugs next week. If you've got anything flowering you should be sweeping it."

MIDSOUTH

Wendell Minson, Bootheel Crop Consultants, Dexter, Mo.: "This is the earliest we've ever planted, and it's remained early, without any big problems to delay it. We're putting on midseason fertilizer this week, which is a good 7-10 days before we've ever started. That's on Cocodrie, which is earlier, anyway, in terms of midseason. But we've

Continued on next pages



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got a lot of rice at green ring this week.

“We’re in the process of getting everything cleaned up. It’s been fairly clean but, like everyone else this season, we’ve had a few problem spots. Overall, more rice has gone to permanent flood for this time of the year than anyone has ever seen. Heat has been a little above normal, but nothing excessive, and that’s helped us maintain good growth.

“We also have situations where rain forced growers to rush fertilizer onto damp ground. Some rice is yellowing as it runs out of nitrogen. We’re flying fertilizer on a little sooner in some cases than we’d like and also will make split applications at midseason to spread it out a little. There’s some thinking that this rice is growing so fast that it’s drawing down the nitrogen faster. But I suspect it’s got more to do with being forced to make some applications before the ground was quite dry enough.”

Dan Roach, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: “We’ve probably gotten 25% of our midseason applied and should finish the balance this week. We’re cleaning up spots where grass escaped. Other than that, we’re in pretty good shape.”

Brent Lassiter, ProAg Services, LLC, Newport, Ark.: “We’re getting rain today, and it’s the first we’ve had in at least a couple of weeks. Things were getting dry. I have 2-3 late fields that haven’t been up long, and I was about to flush them. Except for a couple of straggling fields, we’ve got a flood on everything. We’ve started midseason on just about everything. We’re going with Stam and Grandstand behind most of our Newpath, and Stam and Grandstand behind Clincher. “Sheath blight turned up the

other day on some edges that were double-planted on the end. Finding sheath blight at the water line when we’re just putting out midseason is a little scary. It’s been awfully humid, and temperatures have been in the low 90s. That would seem like prime conditions for disease development.

“Overall, the crop is a little ahead of normal. A lot of our DD50s indicate we could be draining some of our earliest fields in early August.”

David Strohl, Aerial Applicator/Grower, Skarda Flying Service, Inc., Tollville, Ark.: “We’re starting a little with phenoxy herbicides this week and have just begun doing some midseason. Also, we’re going back to pick up some grass problems that we were left with when it was too windy to spray exactly on time. We’ve got some big grass in places, and we’re either flying a half-pound of Facet into the flood or spot-treating with Clincher.

“Toward the first of next week we’ll be in full swing with our midseason shot. Generally, we’re 5-8 days ahead of where we usually are in mid June.”

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: “About 40% of our crop is at or near midseason, and the early crop is progressing well. We’re picking up a little leaf blast in various parts of the state. Sheath blight is apparent on a few varieties in some places. Preflood fertilizer is going out on later planted rice, and a few fields are still being planted, either behind wheat or where weather delayed land leveling.”

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: “Rice looks pretty good. Our oldest is just past green ring. Fields we check in

Louisiana didn’t have Icon, but one treatment with Mustang Max or Karate apparently worked well. We haven’t treated anything twice. Rice is a little weedy with all the weather delays when we were trying to make treatments.”

Tim Walker, Assistant Rice Research Professor, Stoneville, Miss.: “The crop is progressing right along. Midseason has been going on rice planted in the April 7-16 period north of U.S. 82, and south of the highway they’re further along.

“We’re getting a few calls regarding a mystery problem on Clearfield 161 and Clearfield XL8. We haven’t 100% identified the cause, and it keeps being attributed to a multitude of factors. In one situation I recommended lowering the water and keeping the field muddy over the weekend. It started looking better, and the grower pumped it up again.

“It’s affecting scattered plants, and some are dying throughout the field. There’s some with a buggy whip symptom similar to Facet injury on cut ground. Mark Kurtz (weed scientist) has seen it in some research plots, as well.

“So far, we’re not finding the level of diseases I’m hearing about in neighboring states. But we haven’t had the amount of rain in most areas that they’ve dealt with in Arkansas and Louisiana. I haven’t received the first call about disease.”

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: “Rice stinkbug numbers have been turning up on the edges of some fields. They’re feeding primarily on barnyardgrass and johnsongrass. There’s nothing on the rice for them to feed on, but they are building.”