

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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

## OVERVIEW

Rain has been pushing through the Texas growing area since Monday night, and it was pushing into Louisiana and Arkansas as we closed this issue Tuesday. The rain will likely keep disease pressure building in the southern and western parts of our coverage area and further delay pre-flood work in the Midsouth.

These reports were made Monday evening and Tuesday.

## TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

**Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas:** "We've gotten at least 2" of rain since last night (Monday). It's coming at a good time for the row crops. We had actually started watering soybeans. With rice, the rain will delay us another day or so on getting some fertilizer and fungicide work done. We've

started fungicide applications on the earliest planted rice in the early varieties, but we're moving toward treatments on some of the later planted fields. Quite a bit is in boot. It's been dry for a while, and that's held down diseases. But with this rainy spell, it probably will get going. There's a little sheath blight and other diseases, like cercospora. We'll probably ration a lot of this rice, so it pays to make the treatment.

"We're starting to see indications that early larval stem borers are feeding on leaves. Stalk damage isn't evident yet, but at least we know they're getting started."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "Today (Tuesday) is the feast day of St. Medard (patron saint of Paris). It's said down here that if it's raining on this day that we will get 40 days and 40 nights of rain. I hope that's not the case. We've had enough already.

"We're seeing some tough situations with rice water weevils where people put out something

one time for adults and thought that would be enough. They didn't recheck, and now they're finding heavy larval populations after it's too late to drain fields.

"Also, we still are dealing with this mystery disease. Whether it's a mineral toxicity or something else, we're not sure. Draining seems to be the only fix. We've pretty much ruled out hydrogen sulfide toxicity. We're still evaluating tissue sample results."

## MIDSOUTH

**Allen McKnight, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.:**

"With the exception of a few sprinkles, we missed most of the rain over the weekend. We're still putting out fertilizer where we have dry ground, and 80-90% of our rice is flooded. When winds finally shifted out of the northeast we were able to spray some fields that had been impossible to work with the wind was out of the southwest. As soon as possible we fertilized and flooded. We've also had to make changes in our herbicide programs due to wind and

Continued on next pages



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adjacent crops. Midseason is going out now on older rice, and we're lining up more in the next few days."

**John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.:** "Due to the weather we're a little behind on rice. Wet soils and wind have delayed herbicide and fertilizer work. We've applied a lot of ammonium sulfate to compensate, but we'll have to make it up with urea when rice is flooded. Pumps, hopefully, will be running in a lot of our fields by late this week. Some of our rice that emerged in the last part of April will be ready for midseason this week."

**Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension Agent, Bastrop, La.:** "Rice looks really good. It's got all the water it wants and, if anything, growers have been pumping to get excess water off some fields. We do have rice water weevil pressure. With all the wet weather and delays, some larvae slipped past treatments, and they're in the root system. We're hoping they're not close to threshold since our only option now is draining and taking a hit on weed control and fertilizer. Many fields already have been treated. Eggs still are being laid, and some treatments continue."

**Rudy Randleman, Rudy's Field Service, Paragould, Ark.:** "We're about 75% finished with pre-flood nitrogen and will start some midseason next week. We've been fortunate with herbicides. We've been able to get a little done each day. That's not to say it didn't drag out for a while in some fields. Overall, we're in pretty good shape. Newpath has worked well. We had Command on nearly everything and made our first Newpath application by

ground."

**Jay Coker, Consultant/Grower, DeWitt, Ark.:** "Last week we pretty much finished pre-flood fertilizer and herbicide work. Wind and wet weather delayed us about 14 days. Maybe that won't affect yields, but we won't know for sure until the combine hits the field. We've got rice just getting flooded and have some at green ring. The weather will add extra costs for higher herbicide and fertilizer rates."

**Curt Johnson, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Lake Village, Ark.:** "We've got Roundup drift on beaucoup acreage. It's really set some rice back. There's been a big round of activity in SE Arkansas with the state plant board. They seem to be doing a good job investigating and, at the same time, seeing what they can do to make these situations equitable. In the rice I check maybe 700-800 acres have been effected."

"I've lost some rice acreage because it was too late to replant, and the grower shifted to beans."

"Despite all that, we've got some good looking rice. The majority of our acres are getting a permanent flood. The wind did reek havoc on herbicide work. I'm looking at a field with morningglory that's started running pretty good. We finally got some Grandstand on it, and it appears to have done a pretty good job. Now we're just trying to get water on it and hoping for the best. Even some of our Clearfield rice had a lot of escapes when the second Newpath shot was delayed."

"We've got more soluble salt problems than ever before and in fields where we've never seen the problem. Water and wind wicked it up, and there are yellow levees all across some fields. It's not a terrible situation, but it is surprising."

**Tim Walker, Assistant Rice Research Professor, Stoneville, Miss.:** "In the south Delta some midseason has gone out. There will be a lot more starting this week and even more next week."

"We're getting calls about glyphosate drift that resulted from all the wind a couple of weeks ago. Also, we're seeing signs of phosphorous deficiency. I've been discussing this with several consultants, and they're confirming what I've noticed — some of the smaller spots are getting bigger every year. With high yielding rice and 50 bu/acre soybeans we're depleting our reserves. That's becoming obvious in places, especially in mixed and low phosphorous soils. In our field studies this year we definitely see a difference between treated plots and untreated checks."

**Cecil Parker, AgriServices Ltd., Vidalia, La.:** "It's been very difficult to get anything done due to the wind. When it started raining a little over 3 weeks ago we were ready to spray and flood up. We couldn't get pilots to fly. Unfortunately, we'll have some escapes. We're putting on a lot of Grandstand and Clincher and will also be using some Whip and Ricestar. This will be a big year for Texasweed. It's pretty apparent on every farm I check, including some where farmers have never seen it before. We'll have to apply Beyond on some of our Clearfield rice where the wind kept us from spraying Newpath."

"Despite all that, the crop still looks good, overall. A lot of rice is at green ring, and a little bit is past that. We're into the second fertilizer application now. We had to spray everything once for rice water weevil. Very little required a second treatment."