

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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

We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Owen Taylor, Editor

OVERVIEW

Rain continues to delay late planting and field work in parts of Texas. As we closed this issue Friday afternoon, thunderstorms had stacked up to the west and northeast of Houston and most of the way back to Victoria County, which already received heavy rainfall in the last two days. In coastal Louisiana some topdressing has started.

Earlier planted fields in the lower Midsouth are beginning to go to flood, while others are receiving pre-flood fertilizer.

These reports were made Monday evening and Tuesday.

TEXAS/SOUTH LA.

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "A lot of fields are at or near midseason, and growers are beginning to topdress a lot of it.

"We've gotten several calls about flooding difficulties in Clearfield rice and some associated stand loss. There may be a combination of factors here. A lot of fellows drilled for the first time, and floods may have been too high. That could have been further complicated by cooler temperatures. The lower stand counts also meant fewer plants to compensate for any loss. We're still looking at some of these fields to get a better handle on what happened.

"We've also had instances of Newpath drifting onto conventional rice. This stuff went out 2 weeks ago when it was windy but people felt pressured to spray. Otherwise, Clearfield rice looks pretty good. We've

got 4 fields in our verification program, and one of them is about the best looking field we're working."

Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas: "We've still got a little rice that hasn't been planted. Our most advanced fields are holding a flood now, with joint movement starting. The rain has worked against us. It just keeps raining. We've had three weekends in a row with pretty good showers.

"The rain is holding up spraying and fertilizer work. Airstrips are wet, and it's hard to find a place for the planes to work. We're not in a bind yet, but whenever the weather breaks everyone will be going hard for a while. The rain is helping where growers are establishing permanent floods."

MIDSOUTH

Rudy Randleman, Rudy's

Continued on next pages



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Field Service, Paragould, Ark.: “We’re still trying to finish planting a small part of our crop, but 85% of our rice has emerged, and our earliest fields are up to the 4-leaf stage. We’re starting some pre-flood fertilizer this week and are putting out our second shot of Newpath on Clearfield varieties. A rain right now would help bring up the rice we’re still planting.

“I’ve never seen as early a start as we’ve made this year. When a lot of the rain came earlier, we had 75% of our rice planted. Altogether, we got 7-8" of rain out of all those systems, but we’re dry again.”

Jay Coker, Consultant/Grower, DeWitt, Ark.: “Things are kind of crazy around here this week. In the Stuttgart and DeWitt areas people are fertilizing and flushing in some fields and fertilizing and putting on permanent floods in others. We’re flushing the 2-leaf rice and flooding where it’s reached the 4-leaf stage. A lot of herbicides are going out, plus growers are starting to plant soybeans.

“We’re down to planting the last 10-20% of the crop now. Rice looks healthy, it emerged uniformly and very little had to be flushed. Herbicides stayed activated, too.”

Curt Johnson, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Lake Village, Ark.: “We’re 85-95% planted, and 75% of that is up. Our first fields probably will go to flood next week. Some of the earliest rice in the area is at Grady, and I understand it’s going to flood today (Monday).

“Wind has really been taking

away the moisture. We got a general rain a week ago this last Friday and Saturday, and by the next Saturday the top half to three-quarters of an inch was dry again. We got spotty rains last night (Sunday). I was in a field this morning where it rained on one side but not the other. We’re flushing some, especially on heavy clays where cracks are opening up.

“Overall, this season has really made an early start. One customer who usually finishes planting between now and May 15 had all his rice in the ground by April 27. So far, we’ve only had to replant 2 small fields. With some of the cold weather in April, we got off light. Part of that rice sat there for 10-12 days before it ever thought about emerging.”

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie’s Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: “We’re running a little behind last year. Most of my growers went big with MG IV soybeans. Our rice generally looks good. We’re flushing some to a stand. The only herbicide we’ve put out, so far, has been our Newpath.”

Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension agent, Bastrop, La.: “We’re still planting, and nearly everything is in the seedling stage. Folks who are ready to start putting up levees keep getting delayed by all these showers.”

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: “A few salt problems are showing up in north Arkansas as the soil dries out. We’re also dealing with a

few grape colaspis hot spots, but nothing like a few years ago. We’re still hoping for a rain to finish out some fields. The showers have been scattered, so some people got enough rain and some didn’t. There are instances of Roundup drift that we’re looking at now. As careful as most people are trying to be this spring, the sheer volume of treatments pretty much means some of this is bound to happen.

“I’ve come across a couple of fields that have gone to flood, and we’ll see more next week. A little planting activity continues, but about 90% of the crop has probably been finished.”

Tim Walker, Assistant Rice Research Professor, Stoneville, Miss.: “We’re still progressing. A lot of rice south of U.S. 82 is getting fertilizer and going to flood, and some fields north of the highway are going to flood, as well. These are fields generally planted in late March. So far, this is a small portion of the crop, but there are a lot of fields that are moving close to that point.

“We’ve had scattered showers in the Stoneville area today. We do need rain on fields that have just been planted and on a lot of fields with 2- and 3-leaf rice.”