

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Owen Taylor, Editor

## OVERVIEW

Since May 1, some locations in coastal Louisiana have measured a third of their typical annual rainfall – and much of that came in just the last week. Texas rice counties have logged 3" to 9" during the same period. A large swath of the Midsouth — from the south Delta to the Missouri Bootheel — has been soaked, as well.

Some spots might be described as relatively dry, or at least moist. But they are the exception. More rain fell Tuesday, mostly south of I-20.

On a wide basis, the rain has delayed herbicide applications,

preflood fertilizer work and other tasks.

Flooding also is stressing the crop in south Louisiana. And, if that's not enough, a little sheath blight is turning up in that part of Louisiana.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

## TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

**Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas:**

"The amount of rain we've gotten this month depends on where you happen to be standing. Ganado has picked up 9.5", and totals range from 3" to 9" across our rice belt. I was near Edna yesterday (Monday) and some cotton fields were still under water. About 7% of our crop still hasn't been planted.

"We're somewhat ahead of last year in terms of how much rice has gone to flood, but a lot more permanent flooding has been delayed due to the weather. Most everyone is wait-

ing for drier weather so they can put on fertilizer. We've got a lot of fields that are in a holding pattern. In the next few days some people may give up, flood up and fly on fertilizer."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:**

"We've got too much water – way, way too much. In the last 10-12 days the gauges in parts of Acadia Parish have pushed 20". The Lafayette paper said we only lacked 3-4" setting a May record. Some rice is under water. I visited a verification field today where water was flowing from the ditch into the field.

"Some fields have missed insecticide treatments and 2,4-D applications – and it's still raining. I drove through two thunderstorms today (Tuesday). In some places people have poured 9" out of gauges in the last two days.

"We're getting a lot of ques-

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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tions about how long rice can stay under water. You're better off if water is clear and somewhat cool. Warm, muddy water is the worst.

"We're stressing that you shouldn't drain water all the way down. Plants are elongated and can't stand up on their own. Let new leaves form and come to the surface first. Draining too fast means plants will collapse and stick in the mud.

"There were reports today (Tuesday) of sheath blight already starting in places. That's not altogether surprising. We've got ideal weather for disease development."

## MIDSOUTH

**Dan Roach, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.:** "We don't have 10% of our rice flooded yet, but we're lucky enough to have already treated 90-95% of it. We're just cleaning up a few spots. Rainfall in the last 7 days ranged from as little as an inch to as much as 4". I've got some growers with fields under water right now. We could use 7 days of dry weather. About 80% of this rice can go to flood as soon as it's dry enough to put out fertilizer."

**Brent Lassiter, ProAg Services, LLC, Newport, Ark.:** "We're getting a shower about every other day, and there's a ton of acreage ready to be fertilized as soon as the ground dries up. The longer this drags out the less activity we'll have with Command. Some of this rice will have to be sprayed twice. We've had to replant a little, but not as much as was necessary in the Arkansas River bottoms where it flooded for two weeks.

"My growers had very little

rice in that situation. We had to replant only about 200 acres. I do have one area where the water is rising again with the rain over the last week. In some Clearfield rice the rain kept us from applying Newpath, and we've got 4-leaf rice with 4-leaf red rice, plus other weeds. With seed in short supply, we may apply a burndown treatment there and plant beans."

**Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.:** "We've had to do a small amount of replanting, maybe 40 acres. Command, in combination with rain and cold weather, held it back. Everything planted before that particular field came up okay. But it's been cold for our area, and rice has taken a little longer than we usually expect for it to grow out of the Command."

**Wendell Minson, Bootheel Crop Consultants, Dexter, Mo.:** "We went through an early dry spell, but we've definitely caught up. Last Thursday and Friday everybody got 2". The week before that, we got 3". It's raining now (Monday). We're ready for fields to dry up so we can get things sprayed, apply fertilizer and start flooding.

"Stands are probably as uneven as we've had in a long time, and we've flushed more than we ever have. When it did rain, there was a good deal of crusting over, plus nights into the 40s. We've been getting our seeding rates down, so all this has left us with lighter stands than normal. We've been babying along some fields with ammonium sulfate."

**David Strohl, Aerial Ap-**

**plicator/Grower, Skarda Flying Service, Inc., Tollville, Ark.:** "About 95% of our rice has been planted. The weather has really delayed herbicide applications. We've had to hold off Newpath treatments at times and also eliminate Facet from some applications. On a number of days it already was too windy at 5:30 a.m. to spray. And we've had showers nearly every day or every other day. That delayed some pre-flood urea. If it were dry right now, half our rice would get its pre-flood nitrogen."

**Tim Walker, Assistant Rice Research Professor, Stoneville, Miss.:** "We're hoping the rain is over for a while. A lot of herbicides need to go out, and we should be fertilizing and flooding up a lot of this rice. The young rice looks pretty good, even though it hasn't had sunshine in 7 days. Some herbicides are going out now, but it probably will be Thursday before fertilizer starts going out again, provided it doesn't rain again."

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "It's wet just about everywhere. Overall, the crop is still doing fairly well, but everyone is getting antsy to get fertilizer out and flood up.

"We're still dealing with thin stands and replanting decisions in places. I saw some pythium last week, too. There continue to be rumblings about glyphosate drift, but not as many this week as the week before. But these are all still from burndown. We haven't gotten into the regular Roundup Ready soybean applications yet."