

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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Here is this week's **RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas**, sponsored by the field staff of **Dow AgroSciences**, maker of **Grasp™** and **Clincher®** herbicides.

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OVERVIEW

Cold weather persists across much of our coverage area, and it's delaying emergence, slowing growth and complicating herbicide programs. A warming trend should start by this weekend. These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "The crop looks pretty good right now, although it could use a rain. A lot of guys need to flush, but they're hoping for

rain. I've got to say, we're off to a good start. We're 99% planted, 95% emerged, and part of it is going to flood. Some fields down on the coast probably already are at flood. Acreage is only down about 5%. I've only had three problem calls all spring. It's a great year, so far."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "It's too cold, way too cold. We're running way below normal on accumulated heat units. The crop is late, and the rice is struggling between the cold conditions and the wind. Rice isn't moving enough that we can put out herbicides, and we're dealing with stressed rice. It's a challenge."

MIDSOUTH

Allen McKnight, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.: "We've probably planted just over half the rice. With the

weather lately we're having trouble getting levees up. Every few days it's been threatening to rain, and we've been afraid to start pulling levees because we may not be able to finish before it does rain.

"We've flushed some rice but probably should have been flushing more. The priority, though, was to get more seed in the ground. A lot of rice is up, mostly needles right now. It seems like germination is quite irregular this season. Some plants jumped out of the ground, while others didn't, even though there was plenty of moisture. We're hoping this is because of the cool weather."

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "We've got at least 75% planted, with about 30% emerged. Conditions haven't been exactly ideal."

Continued on next pages

For pre-flood control of barnyardgrass, broadleaf weeds and annual sedges, apply **NEW Grasp™ SC** herbicide in a tank mix with labeled rates of **Command**, **Facet** or **pendimethalin**.

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Temperatures ran 5 to 8 degrees below normal last week, and it's still real cool. Lack of heat has delayed emergence pretty widely, and there has to be some worry about seedling disease developing. I've heard about stand problems scattered around in north Arkansas and some down south, although it's pretty quiet otherwise.

"Propanil doesn't work too well in cool weather, so conditions also are affecting weed control decisions. Some growers told me they'll wait until this weekend to apply propanil because the forecast is calling for better conditions. We're suppose to break into the mid to high 70s and then push into at least the low 80s over the weekend."

Rudy Randleman, Rudy's Field Service, Paragould, Ark.: "We were 95% planted in my area when it started to rain last Thursday. We received 2.7 inches through Saturday morning. It rained when we really needed it. We were on the verge of starting to flush. I think that 'flush' is the nastiest word that I can tell a farmer. We had most of our Command down, as well as Newpath on Clearfield varieties. Most of our first shot of Newpath is incorporated. We are about 35% Clearfield 161, with what XL8 we could get. The remainder is 50% Wells, 10% Banks and 5% Francis.

Dan Roach, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: "Rain amounts last week varied. North of Cleveland totals were a half-inch or less, and people are still flushing to try to get a stand or activate chemicals. South of Cleveland the totals

were six to eight tenths and up to two inches in places. The cool weather is delaying herbicide work. We'll wait for conditions to improve and then clean up fields down the road.

"The wind has really dried things out. Where we only got a half-inch of rain we never stopped pumping. I just looked at a place that received seven tenths on Friday, and if the wind keeps blowing we'll probably flush that rice in a couple of days."

Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist: "With the cool weather, growth has been slow, very slow. We got about an inch of rain over a wide part of our production area last Friday, but some places only got a few tenths, and that rice is being flushed now. With a drier forecast for the rest of the week we'll probably see more flushing start in the next three to four days. We're suppose to have warmer conditions, too, and that will help move this crop along.

"Our earliest rice got a quick start. It's at two to three leaves and looks pretty good. The rice planted in the last two to three weeks, though, is just trying to get out of the ground.

"We've had news regarding herbicides. An application by air with Command and four specific glyphosate formulations was approved. It's a little late in the season now, but there may be some guys who still want to put it out. Also, there was hope that the Newpath label would be expanded to allow for six-ounce applications in areas with bad red rice, but we were notified

today that the request was turned down and that four ounces will remain the maximum rate per allowed application."

Lance Honeycutt, Craighead Farmers Co-op, Jonesboro, Ark.: "We're 90% or more planted, with probably 30% of the rice up. The bulk of my acres were planted in the 10-day period before we got two inches of rain last Thursday and Friday. Where the soil was moist and there was enough time, the rice is up and in pretty good shape. But where it was planted dry, we need another shower to break the crust and get rice up to a stand. That north wind really dried things out. About 80% of our people sprayed before the rain, so we got good chemical activation with the rain."

ALSO THIS WEEK

Louisiana has made a major revision in its LSU Ag Center web site. To access the main ag page and links to rice and other crops, go to:

lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/

A few kinks are still being worked out with the DD50s system, said Johnny Saichuk, Extension Rice Specialist, but he expects those to be resolved soon.

One note: we were unable to access the DD50 log-in screen from Netscape Navigator but were able to reach it with Internet Explorer and Firefox (a free web browser that we've really grown to like).