

# 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

Warmer weather throughout the Midsouth and south Louisiana is helping put the crop on a better track after weeks of cold temperatures.

Conditions, though, remain mostly dry throughout the region, forcing growers to do more flushing. Rainfall on Sunday night and Monday morning helped in spots. But most areas still lack moisture, and flushing continues.

In coastal Texas as much as 15% of the early crop has gone to flood.

These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

## TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "We've finally moved into some warm temperatures. We missed the last rain, which didn't hurt the rice down here but wasn't good for guys trying to plant beans. Everyone in north Louisiana has been flushing rice to get it up or keep it going.

"We picked up a few water weevils in south Louisiana last week and had to treat. We are seeing a bit of red rice in fields where we had the cool weather and couldn't do the pinpoint program. Some rice is now two weeks or less from topdressing.

"We're way behind on DD50s. The stature of plants is short, but we think they'll put on some height with warmer weather. I've seen a lot of dif-

ference in fields since last week. This is the first day I've really broken a sweat this season. It's in the low 80s but humidity is high."

**Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas:** "I think we're in great shape. We got a good rain out of this last storm. There was wind damage to some other crops, but it didn't affect rice. Amounts of 1-3 inches were reported.

"Canal companies have stopped pumping water. The guys who were thinking about flushing don't have to now. A small amount of the crop hasn't made it up yet, but along the lower coast about 15% of the rice is going to flood, and a lot of our rice will go to flood in the next week or two."

**David Mitchell, M&M Air**

Continued on next pages

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**Service, Beaumont, Texas:** “The crop is starting to perk up. It’s been dry, but Sunday night we got eight tenths to two inches of rain, and that was the first we have had in four weeks. We’re getting into summer temperatures now with higher humidity levels, and the rice is growing good. The first round of spraying is pretty much wrapped up. If we hadn’t gotten the rain the aphids were really going to hammer the rice. They were congregating pretty heavily. We do need more rain. There still are two-inch cracks in the ground.”

## **MIDSOUTH**

**John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie’s Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.:** “Our rice crop needs a good, general rain. It rained this morning (Monday) but not enough to stop the pumps where we already were flushing rice. There isn’t a whole lot of rice up to a stand yet. Cold conditions have really held things back. I haven’t run any DD50s yet, but I ran the DD60s for April 25 to May 1 for cotton, and it was a grand total of 2. From May 1 to May 5 we had 20. That’s an 11-day period with 22.”

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** “This warm weather is helping the rice. I’m still getting calls about seedling disease or seedling problems. Whether or not it’s pythium still hasn’t been determined.

The rice has been cold and wet and in a lot of cases hasn’t been doing very well. But it’s also perking up now in some fields. I was supposed to see a problem field on Friday but couldn’t make it. The grower called today (Monday) and said it had turned around after three days of warm weather.

“A few areas got rained out late last week, but planting continued in other places. We got showers across the state today, but I’m mostly hearing about amounts of a tenth to a half-inch. I’m guessing that 85% of the crop is planted now.”

**Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist:** “The rain Monday was a hit-or-miss deal. Some people got a good rain, from a half inch to one inch, while others got little or nothing. It was very sporadic, especially on the west side of the Delta. We have growers flushing to get a stand or to activate herbicides. Some Newpath is going out, too, and guys are flushing behind that. Warmer weather is certainly in the forecast, and that will help.

“Weeds are really coming on right now. You might not see any, then five days later find two- and three-leaf grass.”

**Amy Beth Dowdy, ABD Crop Consulting, Dexter, Mo.:** “The rice is trying to come up. We didn’t get enough rain Monday, maybe a tenth to four tenths. A lot of people want to wait on flushing because there’s a chance of rain for this

weekend, but I’m telling them to go ahead and flush. I’m seeing some one and two-leaf grass, and we’ve got fields with partial stands that need be finished out. We had moisture earlier but the rice couldn’t take advantage of it because it was so cold. I’ve got eight fields up to a total stand, and it took three weeks.”

**Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.:** “Our drill-seeded rice in southeast Arkansas looks great but the water-seeded rice had to be replanted. With those 40-degree nights the water-seeded roots never pegged and then turned brown.”

**Carl Hayden, Chicot County Extension Agent, Lake Village, Ark.:** “Rice looks pretty good. It has been a little slow coming up. But compared to what we’ve been through with cotton, we’re in better shape. At least with rice you can flush and get it out of the ground.”