

# 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**<sup>™</sup> and **Clincher**<sup>®</sup> herbicides.

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## OVERVIEW

More rice is going to flood in Texas and south Louisiana.

More rice is being flushed in the Midsouth this week. Much of the region remains dry. Some early fields are being prepped for permanent flood, and additional fields will be going to flood before the end of the month.

These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

## TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "We're find-

ing rice water weevils everywhere now. There hasn't been enough rain to do much of anything, and we're either flushing or flooding in south Louisiana.

"We've gotten a few calls about our mystery malady. Some of this, we believe, will be due to hydrogen sulfide toxicity, but in other cases that diagnosis won't work. Our Rice Research Board is funding a program to study whatever this problem is, and we're hoping to gain a better understanding about what's going on.

"We want to welcome Jeremy Hebert to our research verification program. Jeremy is a recent graduate of McNeese State University."

**DeWayne Dopslauf, Agri-liance, Wharton, Texas:**

"We're doing herbicide work to clean up things and start taking some rice to flood. I've got another group of fields that are

10 days off from holding a flood. That cold snap this spring really held back growth on late rice."

## MIDSOUTH

**Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension agent, Bastrop, La.:** "Rice is still in the seedling stage, and growers are having to flush everything. This crop already is costing us more with all this extra pumping, and that's compounded by the increased price of fuel. Basically, the rice looks pretty good. We just need rain and a better price."

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "Rain over the weekend varied. Southern Arkansas got up to 1.5 inches, but a lot of the state got none or maybe a tenth. Plenty of fields are being flushed. Growers are

Continued on next pages

If one- to four-leaf barnyardgrass – especially resistant biotypes – and broadleaf weeds like smartweed, alligatorweed, hemp sesbania, eclipta and others break through early season herbicide applications, get them back under control before flood with **NEW Grasp**<sup>™</sup> SC herbicide.

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starting preflood fertilizer work on some of the earlier fields and getting ready to flood up. We'll see more of that start next week, I think.

"Cool weather has made the crop more sensitive to things, and I had several calls last week about salinity problem. Calls were all the way from north to south Arkansas. Rainfall and rapid drying conditions brought more salt to the top, and rice was at the right growth stage to be hurt. Some varieties like Wells are more susceptible.

"I heard a few reports of grape colaspis on the Grand Prairie, but I also received a call asking why there weren't very many being found this season."

**Brent Lassiter, ProAg Services, LLC, Newport, Ark.:** "The crop looks alright. We're still kind of struggling, though, to make a good stand everywhere and get chemicals activated. A lot of flushing is underway, and there's very little chance for rain in the immediate forecast. We're just trying to get by now until the flood. I've got some rice that will be ready by the end of the week."

**David Hydrick, Hydrick's Crop Consulting, Inc., Jonesboro, Ark.:** "We will start flooding a field or two by Monday and a lot by the end of next week. Herbicides are go-

ing out now to clean things up."

**Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.:** "Cold weather really slowed down our early planted rice. We had to flush it, then it got cold and then the wind picked up. It's just sitting there, and a lot of this older rice looks thin. The second round of planting missed the cold spell, and rice came out of the ground growing.

"We got just over an inch of rain in the immediate Cleveland area on Saturday, but it didn't go very far. I'm told that areas around Shaw got 2 inches but Shelby only managed 2 tenths. We just got through with one round of flushing, and that rice looks fine.

"A small amount of our acreage is ready for the flood, and I've seen a little already flooded. But the majority of mine won't be to that point for another 10-14 days. It's going to be June before some of it can take a flood."

**Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist:** "In terms of weather, every day has been different. Last week we had a couple of days in the high 80s and even to 90, and the crop responded. But it's cooling into the low 80s again. This morning (Tuesday) it was 56 degrees. Yesterday we had strong north winds again.

"Rain over the weekend

ranged from 3-4 inches in spots, but amounts were much lower in most areas. Around Cleveland it rained about an inch, but it was down to a quarter-inch at Stoneville, and the south Delta didn't get much at all.

"A lot of spraying and flushing are underway. Command used on rice planted a month ago is starting to go away, and that rice still isn't very big. People who didn't use Command have already been spraying. We still have the potential to make a good crop, but it's making a slow start."