

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

Owen Taylor, Editor (owen@agfax.com, 888-327-6329)

MAY 24, 2005

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

Owen Taylor, Editor

owen@agfax.com 888-327-6329

OVERVIEW

Dry weather is having an effect on much of our coverage area.

In Texas and coastal Louisiana a lack of rain has reduced surface water levels, leading to saltwater intrusion. Without an outflow of fresh water, brackish water is backing into canals and bayous that supply rice fields.

Flushing continues across much of the Delta states as growers attempt to even out stands and gain plant size and stand density on rice already delayed by cold weather. Some fields are going to shallow floods to eliminate further flushing.

As we closed out this issue

Tuesday night a weather system had spread rain across parts of central and south Arkansas, Mississippi's South Delta river counties and the northeastern corner of Louisiana.

These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas: "We're holding a flood on nearly all of our rice now. Most of our rice is probably a couple of weeks away from PD. We sprayed weeds before the flood and are doing touchup treatments now that the flood is established and we can see patterns out in the field that can be handled with spot applications.

"We had a good rain a week ago, from a half-inch to 7 inches around El Campo. Other crops look really good. We're fortunate, so far. However, it's been dry since that rain, and there's no more rain in the immediate fore-

cast for our area."

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "Most of our rice is going to flood, and it generally looks good. In a couple of our coastal counties we're running into salinity problems. With this general lack of rainfall there isn't enough fresh water flowing into bayous and rivers, and we're getting saltwater backing into them now.

"Water we normally use for rice is getting saltier and saltier. Some is running 1,800 parts per million salt, which is about twice the rate that's acceptable for seedling rice."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "It looks like the rice water weevil is kind of subsiding. We did a lot of spraying last week and figured we would have to spray more this week, but we're not finding treatable num-

Continued on next pages

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.
- And, the addition of Stam® herbicide broadens the spectrum even more by controlling annual sedges, grass weeds and other broadleaf weeds.
- The Grandstand+Stam combination is a highly effective – and often recommended – solution for broad-spectrum weed management.

To learn more about this time-tested combination, visit:

www.ProtectMyRice.com



*Trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC



**Trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC

©Grandstand and Stam are trademarks of Dow AgroSciences, LLC
Always read and follow label directions.

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas is published by Looking South Communications, 142 Westlake Drive, Brandon, Miss. 39047.

Phone: 601-992-9488, Fax: 601-992-3503. E-mail: owen@agfax.com. Editor: Owen Taylor. It is transmitted via fax or e-mail each week during the rice production season. RiceFax is free to growers, consultants, dealers and other qualifying rice industry workers.

©2005 Looking South Communications

bers. The rice is generally short in south Louisiana, but we don't know to what extent that will affect yields. Some rice is approaching green ring, and 2 of our verification fields are at green ring.

"Generally, this is a late crop, and the weather isn't giving us any breaks. We've gone from it being too cold to suddenly hitting temperatures in the mid to high 90s. We've got a westerly wind, which isn't good, and no sign of rain. We're having trouble keeping up with the water supply, and there are a few cases of saltwater intrusion. Things will get more serious if we have another 1-2 weeks of weather like this."

MIDSOUTH

Curt Johnson, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Lake Village, Ark.: "Flushing, flushing, flushing. That's the story here. We haven't had a widespread rain for quite a while, and my fields are dry from Pine Bluff almost to the Louisiana line.

"We're flushing to get rice up, to keep soil from crusting and to get the Newpath activated. There hasn't been enough manpower or well power to get around to everything, and we've been trying to get some rice flushed for 2 weeks. People depending on ditches and canals are in trouble. One guy has been pumping water out of a river into a canal and then relifting it from the canal into his rice field.

"All my rice is planted, and probably half is to a stand. It's at least to what I will consider a stand this season, and we're moving on from there. We're trying to get Newpath out a little earlier this year to avoid problems with wind and adjacent crops."

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "A lot of fertilizer work and flooding are underway. Many of our growers are try-

ing to figure out how to clean up weed problems, too. Control has been pretty good where people flushed. In other places we've got escapes, and it's still so dry that it makes you nervous about applying herbicides since weeds need to be actively growing for control. The biggest issue is getting grass cleaned up.

"We're getting some reports of zinc deficiency in fields that are flooded up. This may be partly due to the cool weather, which tends to aggravate the problem. Maybe 10% is at flood now. Quite a bit on the Grand Prairie is at flood, but outside of that area flooding is just starting good."

Hugh Whitby, KC Consulting, Wynne, Ark.: "Our rice is in all stages. Some has just been planted, and we're also putting the permanent flood on a few fields. There hasn't been much rain lately, and we're flushing. It's been 2-3 weeks since a real widespread rain."

Wendell Minson, Bootheel Crop Consultants, Dexter, Mo.: "This season has been a struggle. Cold weather really hurt. Guys with stale seedbed or no-till fields got behind the eight ball, especially if they had no seed treatment. We're flushing in fertilizer now, trying to thicken up some thin stands. About 10-15% of my rice is going to flood now.

"I don't think we've ever flushed this much. It's more typical to flush up here and then get a bunch of rain. But the guys who started flushing and stayed with it have a more uniform stand. It's already been an expensive season. The wind is blowing out of the north again, and that's what has dried up a good deal of the rain we have gotten. I'm anxious to get the rest of this rice sprayed and put to flood."

Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist: "Very few people have been lucky enough to get rain in the last week. The southeastern Delta received rain last Friday, but that was about all. A lot of flushing is underway. It's shaping up to be an expensive crop. People have been trying to maintain herbicides activity, but this dry weather is making that a challenge.

"I got 2 calls Monday about glyphosate drift. Growers are spraying soybeans and cotton now, so that's not surprising. We're also seeing some of the seedling problems reported in Arkansas in the earlier planted rice. Later-planted rice seems to be coming up and growing well where we have moisture.

"Some guys are starting to put on fertilizer and at least hold a shallow flood to kick off part of the early rice. We need rain. The wind keeps blowing, and we've got some pretty big cracks in the ground, too."

Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: "We've got more replanting on rice than I've ever seen. Problems with pythium have been a big part of it. The worst-hit rice tended to be some planted during the coldest periods in April, particularly fields that were flushed or caught small showers. It was wet, and then the cold weather stayed and stayed. If seed didn't have high rates of Apron, it got clobbered. We're really just starting the season's second week of warm temperatures.

"A large portion of our rice is going to flood. We're flooding about a week earlier, but we're simply not going to flush it again and then let the wind dry it out. We're mainly doing pinpoint floods."