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RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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

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OVERVIEW

The coastal crop pushes toward heading, and some fungicide applications are starting up.

In the Midsouth, rainfall over the last week helped in places. But some areas remain critically dry. Tropical Storm Arlene barely grazed the region last weekend.

Midseason is starting in the Delta a little this week, and more will be underway next week.

TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley,

La.: "We've got light disease pressure. I've only recommended a fungicide on one verification field, so far. The other fields are clean. The field where we recommended a treatment is older rice, and sheath blight reached the point that it needed to be sprayed. Several farmers say they're finding sheath blight around and we could get into it heavier next week.

"I thought we'd have some rice heading in at least one verification field, but not yet. One field in Acadia Parish may be heading by Friday. The crop is really mixed. Some fields are moving along nicely, while others seem to just be sitting there. We continue to find fields with our mystery malady, and the count is well over 20 now."

DeWayne Dopslauf, Agri-liance, Wharton, Texas: "Rice looks alright. PD applications are going on right now, and we're check-

ing for sheath blight. Some fungicides have gone out, but not much, overall. We're still fighting a little grass here and there, and grass has been a tough issue this year. We've probably had more problems with grass, in fact, than we've ever had. This has been a widespread problem, and it's hard to say why so much got through.

"I was talking with a couple of farmers at church, and they seemed relieved to find out they weren't the only ones who've been dealing with it. One farmer told me he had made his last herbicide application, and if there was any grass out there then he would just have to live with it."

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "In the western part of our production area we're at 65% to 70% PD. Our first plots are heading. That includes XL8 and 3 of the hybrids. Some of the

Continued on next pages

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Trenasse is also heading right along with the XL8. We were told that it would be 5-6 days earlier than Cocodrie, but this looks like it will be even a little earlier than that.

“Chances for disease are going down somewhat because the humidity is declining. We still have salt problems in a couple of counties. Conditions remain dry, and those problems are getting worse. I don’t know how much longer that rice can hold on.”

MIDSOUTH

Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.: “The majority of our crop is at flood or going to flood right now. Rice is still thin in spots, but it’s starting to tiller out. We’re getting some heat units now, and that’s making a big difference. We did midseason on about 200 acres Saturday and have lined up another 1,000 acres for Thursday or Friday. We’ll get rice flooded up, make water weevil treatments and go from there.”

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: “The driest parts of the state received some rain in the last week, but amounts I’m hearing about range from a few tenths to an inch, and there are areas that got little or nothing. We received absolutely no help from (tropical storm) Arlene. Probably half or more of our crop is flooded. Some is in midseason already. At the end of this week and early next week quite a bit will be reaching midseason.

“I’m getting a few more calls about some problems that, so far, defy ex-

planation. This is the kind of season that brings out odd things. We have seen a few cases of phosphorous deficiency, which shows up 7-10 days after a flood is established.

“Chinch bugs were bad last week. This is unusual. I can count on one hand the number of times we’ve had to deal with bad chinch bug situations and then, suddenly, I get 3-4 calls in one week. There are water weevil hot spots here and there, too, but no major catastrophes are being reported.”

Brent Lassiter, ProAg Services, LLC, Newport, Ark.: “Less than half the county has received good rains lately. The rest remains really dry. We’ve done as much flushing this year as anyone can remember, and that translates into big grass. We’re using a lot of Clincher post-flood on bigger grass. It’s been so dry in the pre-flood period that we couldn’t kill it, anyway.

“We planted some fields and then flushed 4 times to get them up and to a flood. We’ve spent tons of money on diesel before ever getting a flood. Between 90% and 95% of our rice has been flooded now.”

Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist: “A lot of rice is going to flood, and everything is looking better where it rained or the flood has been established. Rainfall in north Mississippi was hit or miss last week. A few midseason applications are starting up, and more will be going out in the next week or so. We’re picking up a few water weevils on the early rice. On newer leaves we’re finding about 30%

feeding scars in some locations. We’ve had problems in isolated fields but no big, widespread situations.

“We will have a lot of rice ready for harvest at the same time. We planted about 45% of the crop in the same week, and then made another round of planting 2 weeks later. But in comparing DD50s, that later rice is only 3-5 days behind now. So, a lot of harvest work will be stacked up at the same time. It’s going to stretch our capacity, not even counting soybeans that might be ready about the same time.”

Jay Coker, Consultant/Grower, DeWitt, Ark.: “Our earliest rice is just moving to green ring, and some of the midseason is going on it. We’ve had spotty showers on the prairie and it’s wet in places, but the area is dry, overall – very dry.

“Our surface water supply – rivers, on-farm reservoirs and other sources – are as dry as I’ve ever seen them at this point. People are going to less desirable sources of water now. It’s expensive to pump water out of a deep well, but that may be the only option. This year you can clearly see the benefit of a recovery ditch.

“Normally, we get rainfall sometime between flushing and permanent flood. That rain replenishes our surface water and by June and July we’ve got a fresh supply. But we started out dry this year, and our rainfall – when we’ve had any – has mostly been measured in tenths.”