

For Dow Jones closing rice commentary and key Extension bulletins, visit agfax.com

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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

JUNE 21, 2005

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

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

OVERVIEW

Saltwater intrusion continues to be a problem in coastal production areas in Louisiana and Texas. Howard Cormier, Extension agent in Vermilion Parish, La., sent us a report this week showing salinity numbers still going up in some of the water sources his growers use. A little more rice is heading in Texas and Louisiana.

Midseason work picked up quite a bit in the Midsouth over the last week.

TEXAS/COASTAL LA.

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "The weather is better today (Tuesday) compared to a week ago

when the heat index hit 110. Humidity is at 34%, which is extremely low for us this time of the year. We've got light disease pressure and light insect pressure.

"The crop is very late. I saw one field of mostly headed-out rice in Acadia Parish today (Tuesday). Otherwise, where I'm seeing heads it's just a few here and there across a field. Our DD50s are all over the board. They haven't been accurate all year, which we initially thought was due to changes in our computer program. But I also now think the weather this year has played a part in the swings. I've got some rice that's ahead of the DD50s and some that's behind."

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "For the most part our crop still looks fantastic. Our first rice is heading in Matagorda County, and I assume it's Jefferson. We still have salinity problems in parts of Galveston and Brazoria Counties,

and that will continue until we get significant rainfall. Growers are pumping some high numbers in terms of parts per million of salt. But as much as possible they're trying to avoid pumping during high tide when water with the higher salt content is pushed farther up the bayous."

Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas:

"Rice started heading out at the end of last week. We're putting fungicide on some rice that's at full boot. Most of our rice is pretty far along. Everything has a flood on it now. Some is at PD, but most is at least between PD and heading.

"Sheath blight is down in the foliage, but it's so hot and dry that we're not seeing it move much. We're mainly applying fungicides for things we can't scout – like smut, false smut and cercospera – that do affect our ratoon crop. We get some payback with our first crop but more on that second crop. We've had more and more

Continued on next pages

Weeds missed by pre-flood herbicide treatments can cost you money in terms of yield and quality grade. Post-flood applications of **Clincher® SF** herbicide will control grass escapes. But in situations where extreme infestations of sprangletop, broadleaf signalgrass, fall panicum, knotgrass and other problem grasses are present, total control of labeled grass weeds should not be expected, and regrowth may occur. A second application of **Clincher** at 10 ounces per acre may be needed for these salvage and rescue situations. If broadleaf weeds like indigo, hemp sesbania, morningglory and others are also a problem, follow with an application of **Grandstand® R** herbicide up to the half-inch internode growth stage. For more information on complete post flood weed control, visit www.ProtectMyRice.com.



*Trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC

®Clincher and Grandstand 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

trouble with false smut and had to miss some ratoon acreage last year because of it.

“Stinkbugs are starting in. We’ve been including a pyrethroid with some of our fungicide applications at full boot. And we also have stem borers – Mexican rice, sugarcane and rice stalk borers. The mix varies where we have them, but all 3 are present in some places. We’re treating at full boot and then taking care of them with stinkbug applications with the next treatment. We have pheromone traps for Mexican rice borers, so we’re monitoring moth flights.”

FIELD DAYS

Texas: The annual Eagle Lake Rice Field Day will be held on Tuesday, June 28. Field tours start at 4 p.m.

South Louisiana: The annual Rice Research Station Field Day at Crowley will be held on Thursday, June 30, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

MIDSOUTH

Curt Johnson, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Lake Village, Ark.: “We’re putting on midseason. We haven’t started on a large percentage of the crop yet, but it’s picking up. We’re doing some cleanup work with herbicides, taking care of patches of grass that got through. In the southern part of my area I’ve been fighting some salt problems where the low humidity and wind wicked it to the surface. We’ve applied ammonium sulfate, kept soil wet and now have a shallow flood. It’s shaping up.

“The fields receiving their midseason applications right now could be into harvest by the last week of August. My DD50s indicate we would be at complete drydown by mid August. I started looking today (Monday) for disease in rice where we did midseason work last week, and I found a little sheath blight. We don’t have conditions that are all that conducive to sheath blight right now.

There isn’t a lot of free moisture in the air.

“Mosquitoes have suddenly gotten bad, and I feel like I’ve lost about a pint of blood today (Monday).”

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: “Between 50% and 60% of our crop should be at or very near midseason this week, and some is already past it. We’ve had no disease calls. I’m hearing about a few blast lesions showing up here and there. That’s a little surprising with the weather we’ve had, but there are places that are prone to it, which may be the case where it’s being found right now.

“We got several calls last week about phosphorous deficiency and herbicide injury. A few people also are facing some late-planting decisions.”

Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: “We’re starting midseason fertilizer work on our own rice this Wednesday, and a few customers will start this week or early next week. Preflood herbicide work has about wrapped up, and that rice is going to flood. I think we’re finally out of the flushing business for 2005.

“The crop, as a whole, still has thin spots, whether it’s due to seedling blight, chinch bugs or something else. Seedling blight was pretty obvious where we had true no-till production and didn’t burn straw. In one place where levees were disked down and smoothed out there was no seedling blight, but once you moved out of those tilled areas it became obvious.

“About 70% of our rice is halfway between flood and midseason. A lot of Clincher is going out. We put out enough Permit, Grandstand and Facet to get the broadleaves. We went with Facet more for residual for morningglory and coffeebeans until we could establish the flood. That’s

worked real well. Sprangletop has been the tough one this year. It’s been so dry that the Command didn’t work well enough.

“Overall, the crop is turning around now and starting to look like rice.”

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: “We’re still getting calls about chinch bugs in late-planted rice. I just talked to a consultant who lost half an acre to them. This population was more toward the middle of the field instead of on the edge, where we normally find them first. That tripped them up, and nobody caught the problem until the damage became more pronounced.”

Hugh Whitby, KC Consulting, Wynne, Ark.: “We’re going out with a lot of midseason right now. Some rice still isn’t at permanent flood, but we’re spraying now and should have it to flood or at least moving that way in a week. Well capacity is being stretched. A field that normally takes 2 days to flood may be taking 7 days this year.”

Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist: “The rice is really responding to all these heat units. With water and fertilizer, it’s moving quickly. A lot of midseason is going out. Some rice is probably reaching a half-inch elongation and is now at PD.

“We’ve had somewhat cooler nighttime temperatures the past few days, with lows in the 60s. That’s allowing plants to relax a little at night. We’ve still got some late to mid May fields that are just getting their first preflood shot of nitrogen. That’s mostly in the north Delta, which still needs rain. I was in a field in Quitman County this week that a farmer has kept moist. But on the field edges there were 2-inch cracks in the soil.”