

# RiceFax

## Midsouth/Texas

Where your crop comes first.

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Here is this week's *RiceFax*, sponsored by **Dow AgroSciences**, maker of **Grasp**, **Grandstand** and **Stam**. To request a subscription, please go to: [agfax.com/subs](http://agfax.com/subs).

### OVERVIEW

**Torrential rains moved across coastal Texas Monday**, dumping 5 to 18 inches in areas east of Houston and west of El Campo. Whole fields were still under water this afternoon, and water was backing up in bayous and canals.

**The storms mostly played out before they reached south Louisiana**, which could have used a good rain. The region is dealing with both a drought and salt contamination caused by Hurricane Rita last September.

We touched base Tuesday afternoon with **Eddie Eskew** and **Howard Cormier**, Extension agents in Jeff Davis and Vermilion Parishes, respectively. Rainfall amounts on Monday were less than an inch in either parish, they estimated

"We're still in a world of hurt," said Cormier. "Salt re-

mains a problem in both our surface water and soils where the storm surge swept in. Rice looks okay where farmers have deep wells. But we've got fields that are slowly drying up where growers don't have that option and don't have good surface water."

Eskew said that climatologists estimate that the region is as much as 25 inches behind on rainfall since April 2005 and 10 inches behind for this year.

For more, see today's posting at: [agfax.blogspot.com](http://agfax.blogspot.com).

### CROP REPORTS

**David Mitchell, M&M Air Service, Beaumont, Texas:**

"Everything in this immediate area (Finnet) is under water. We received up to 18 inches of rain in about seven hours on Monday. From 1 a.m. to 5 a.m., it rained nearly 15 inches at my home. I've lived here all my life and have never seen so much rain fall in such a short time. Amounts tapered off as you moved away from us, down to three to four inches at Port Neches, and the Houston area generally got 1.5 inches or less. Water is backing up now in bayous and canals.

"Before the rain, we were pretty well through with our second applications of Newpath and Clearpath. We did a lot of topdressing last week, and nearly everything was at a permanent flood. Disease isn't showing up, and there's no insect pressure. On the second herbicide spray, most growers went with either Karate or Mustang Max in the tank."

**Keith B. Shelton, Shelton Consulting Service, Inc., Lonoke, Ark.:** "About 70% of our crop was planted early,

(Continued)

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and all of that is going to flood now or soon will be. The rest of our rice came later, and we're flushing some of that. It's just spiking to a stand. Grass pressure continues to be extremely low. Where we don't need to spray for grass, we'll fertilize, flood and then come back with Grandstand and Regiment midseason. On the Clearfield rice, we'll go with Beyond. Overall, we've got very little grass, and mainly will be cleaning up broadleaf weeds and nutgrass."

**Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.:** "About 30-40% of our rice is going to flood, and a big part of the crop will be flooded within the next two weeks. We've had some adversity, but a lot of rice has gotten off to a pretty good start. Of the rice I work, 1,000 to 1,200 acres had to be replanted. In some cases, it was easy to say it was injured by glyphosate. But we also had a lot working against rice – too much rain, too much cold weather, places with Command injury. Some of it had been through so much that it just seemed to be looking for an excuse to die."

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "I've been seeing quite a few drift complaints over the last week. It seems to be widespread, and I can't say that any part of the state has any bigger share than the rest. I'm being asked to look at more and more fields every day. There's concern about Roundup Ready Flex cotton later in the season and whether that will mean more potential problems. There's a growing sentiment among growers for some kind of ban on aerial applications after a certain date, like 2,4-D limitations in cotton counties. That would slow the problem, but there's still potential for drift from ground rigs. It's not just glyphosate. I've looked at Newpath drift on conventional rice, as well."

"Aside from where drift has been a problem, the crop is making good progress. Guys are fertilizing and flooding. Weed control has been fairly easy. Command, Newpath and Facet worked so well for so long that a lot of growers are getting by cheap."

**Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist:** "We're still dealing with drift injury, and the hard part now is making decisions about a lot of borderline situations – do you keep what you have or replant? Rice not affected by drift looks good, especially in the south Delta where there was no drift injury. Warm weather is helping with fertilizer uptake. This is a good opportunity to clean up fields, but the wind is blowing here and there, and people are a little gun shy right now about putting anything out."

**Brent Griffin, Agronomist, Cache River Valley Seed, LLC, Cash, Ark.:** "Rice is finally shaping up now that we have warmer conditions. About 25% of the rice is flooded, and a flood is being established on another 50%. The rest was either planted late or people are waiting for proper con-

ditions to apply herbicides. We've had hit-and-miss showers over the last two days but are hoping for a more widespread rain this week. We need it."

**Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas:** "Since Monday, some areas have received heavy, excessive rainfall, while other parts of our growing region got relatively little. The central counties picked up maybe a half to one inch. But west of El Campo, it rained five to six inches, with totals increasing to 10 to 12 inches in the Victoria area. It rained even more on the east side of our production area. Some places between Houston and the Louisiana line really got pounded. Totals in some locations ranged from eight inches up to 14 inches or more."

"Levees were under water at Ganado this morning (Tuesday). Harris and Fort Bend Counties got a lot of flooding. About 35-40% of our crop is at PD, and another 5%, mostly in Matagorda County, is already heading. It will take time for the water to come off enough to see what all this rain has done to levees and rice."

**Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist:** "High counts of adult rice water weevils are present in places. Rice is going to flood, and we need to check for this."

**Brian V. Ottis, Rice Agronomist, University of Missouri Delta REC, Portageville, Mo.:** "We had spotty rain over the weekend. Portageville picked up two inches. I think amounts were less on the west side of Crowley's Ridge. Fertilizer and herbicides are going out, and a lot of rice is moving to flood this week. Most of our crop was planted at the same time, and all this is happening at once. We had record highs late last week, into the mid 90s, and rice is really jumping now."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "Some rice is running out of nitrogen or has gotten near that point. I'm getting calls about it and also have seen it in some of our verification fields. If it's not too late, 100 lbs/acre of ammonium sulfate could give it a shot in the arm. This has to be done before you get much more than a half-inch panicle. Past that point, there's a cosmetic improvement, but you probably have already lost yield potential. An unusual thing that turned up in a verification field today (Tuesday) was a high rice stinkbug population that's injuring foliage. This shouldn't affect yields, though. At first, I thought it was the black rice bug, but then we found rice stinkbugs."

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