

RiceFax

Midsouth/Texas

Where your crop comes first.

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Here is this week's *RiceFax*, sponsored by **Dow AgroSciences**, maker of Clincher and Grasp herbicides. To request a subscription, please go to: agfax.com/subs.

OVERVIEW

Rice water weevils are being treated on a wider basis.

South Louisiana remains dry, as does much of the Midsouth. More rice is going to flood in the Midsouth. Disease scouting has started in coastal areas, and a few fungicide applications have been made.

Rice acreage in Louisiana could be down as much as 35%. See Johnny Saichuk's comments.

CROP REPORTS

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "Rice is doing well. We've run into a few rice water weevil problems but are handling them okay. This may be a good thing, at least somewhat. This rice hasn't had its midseason fertilizer, so we can apply it while the soil is dry, which may

help its effectiveness. About 25% of our rice is past green ring, and the rest is either at or approaching that point."

DeWayne Dopslauf, Agrilience, Wharton, Texas: "Areas around Beaumont, along the coast and south of us got most of the rain last week. It hardly rained where I live, in fact. Around El Campo and Wharton the totals were three to four inches. Some of our rice is just now going to flood, but a lot is at PD. We'll start checking for disease soon."

Lance Honeycutt, Craighed Farmers Co-op, Jonesboro, Ark.: "We're flooding up nearly everything. It started last week pretty hard, and some people are finished. We haven't had weed control this good in a long time. A few fields were planted late or replanted, and we've got to get them cleaned up right away. We're flushing them now."

Brian V. Ottis, Rice Agronomist, University of Missouri Delta REC, Portageville, Mo.: "A lot of growers are going to flood. There's much more rice water weevil pressure than usual. Part of this is because we no longer have Icon. Also, Command worked well this year, and where there were overlaps we ended up with openings that are very inviting to adults. We've got to scout closely where rice has been flooded and look for feeding damage.

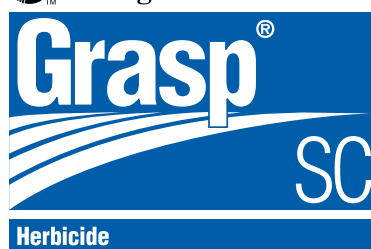
"One grower already had to drain some rice in Pemiscot County, which was a first for him, but that was the only way to gain control. If you haven't applied your pre-flood herbicide, consider adding a labeled insecticide to get ahead of weevils before they lay eggs. If you've gone to flood, scout for adult weevil feeding scars on new leaves. If
(Continued)



When planning a post flood application of Clincher® SF or Grasp® SC herbicide, remember that earlier is better! Proper coverage is vital for optimum weed control, but so is proper application timing. Herbicide applications made within the first 7-10 days after flooding provide the best post flood weed control results. After 10 days, populations of escaped grasses and weeds may become more difficult to control, and some regrowth may occur after application. Don't take chances on lowering your yield and quality potential. To learn about proper application timing, visit www.rightforrice.com.



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you find damage on 60% of the leaves you check, this is the economic threshold, and an application would be warranted. If root pruning is already severe due to larvae feeding, draining the field may be required to get rid of the larvae.”

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: “From 2% to 3% of our rice is heading, and about 50% is at PD. This crop is spread out, which isn’t good for our ratoon crop. How much the flooding last week affected rice on the east side of Houston is hard to tell yet. It’s not good when rice is under water for two to three days. This happened as a lot of rice was shifting from its vegetative to reproductive stage. Some rice was stretched out, and that may lead to lodging.”

Amy Beth Dowdy, ABD Crop Consulting, Dexter, Mo.: “By the end of this week, about 70% of our rice will be flooded. We’re finishing our second shot of Newpath on the Clearpath fields. Things look much better. We are finding rice water weevils in some thin areas but not enough to spray whole fields. We’ve had four flat fields that are going to beans now. These were in RiceTec hybrids, and stands were simply too thin. Part of this was replanted a second time. We flushed, then got a big rain. This was in no-till production, with the straw rolled flat. There wasn’t good seed closure, and the seed rotted. The ground was still so wet that there wasn’t a way to plant it for another week. If this had been conventional rice, we would have had enough plants to keep it, but all the rain worked against us. Another consultant told me today (Tuesday) that he had run into the same thing, and it also was in a no-till situation.”

Rudy Randleman, Rudy’s Field Service, Paragould, Ark.: “We’re about 85% flooded, and the last few fields will probably go to flood next week. A little Clincher work will start as soon as we get floods established. We’re still wrestling with some of the hybrids where we had thin stands due to a combination of cool weather and herbicides that stayed very active and performed a little too well in places. Things are starting to look up. We’ve sprayed two fields, so far, for rice water weevils. Those were thin stands, and we didn’t want anything else working against them.”

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: “Most people are fertilizing and flooding. Warmer weather has been a blessing, and in the last seven to ten days the crop has started looking much better. We are running into a few fields with plants that are dying anywhere from three to seven days after flood. Off hand, it doesn’t seem to be a fertility problem. Part of this seems similar to a problem several years ago caused by a lack of breakdown of certain herbicides because of anaerobic (no oxygen) conditions.

“Rice water weevils have been extremely heavy, and

there are several hot spots across the state. I think the mild winter contributed to a lot of this. Lespedeza pressure has been pretty heavy, too, and we’re already finding pretty heavy numbers of rice stink bugs in wheat.”

Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist: “We’re flooding more of the crop now. Some growers are dealing with big grass that they couldn’t treat earlier in fields injured by glyphosate. They had to fertilize and flush but couldn’t apply herbicides because we needed to avoid further stress and give plants a chance to tiller more. Flooding too soon would have killed a lot of weak plants and thinned out stands even more. This rice will mostly go to flood next week. Rice water weevils are turning up in thin areas. Treatments are going out, partly because we can’t afford to have one more thing working against these stands. It’s not hard to spot adults as soon as you walk into some fields. Rice in the south Delta planted in late March and early April is approaching midseason.”

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: “We’re seeing rice stinkbugs gathering on field edges. They have potential to become a problem, although it’s too early to say that will happen. There were heavy numbers in wheat, and they’ve transitioned onto wild hosts. Rice water weevils (RWW) are at high levels in many areas. RWW are being sprayed in places where they’ve never been treated before. We’re finding heavy scarring and adult activity. Scout closely and keep in mind that the treatment window is five days after flooding. In large, dry fields that take a long time to flood, consider treating ahead of the full flood. Otherwise, you’ll be treating outside of that window on part of the field and could be forced to drain it later.”

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: “A little rice in south Louisiana is heading here and there. A couple of fields of Cheniere in Jeff Davis Parish have been treated with fungicides. The southern part of the state is really dry. The middle and northern parts aren’t critically dry, but rain has been spotty. Rice water weevil pressure has been high up into north Louisiana. Certain places have been treated twice, and some growers wish now that they also had treated fields twice.

“In an informal survey of Extension agents, it appears that our rice acreage will be down 35%. We initially thought it would be off by 20% to 25%.”

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