

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas

**MAY 9, 2007**

Here is this week's RiceFax.

Our thanks to the field staff of Dow AgroSciences for once again sponsoring our early-season reports. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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- Owen Taylor, Editor (888-327-6329)

## OVERVIEW

**More rice in Texas** is going to flood.

**A little rice in south Louisiana** is approaching mid-season.

**Stinkbugs are showing up** somewhat later than normal in south Louisiana, and leaf miners continue to be a nagging problem in that part of the state.

**A little Midsouth rice** is heading toward flood late this week or early next week, depending on what the weather does. Rain is in the forecast. As we closed this issue Wednesday afternoon, showers were popping up in parts of Arkansas and northwest Mississippi.

**Scattered thunderstorms** have held up planting in some parts of the Midsouth, especially in Arkansas.

**California rice planting** is proceeding at a brisk pace, according to a report in this morning's **Food And Farm News**, published by the California Farm Bureau Federation. The e-letter reported that growers had planted more than half the crop. "That's a sharp contrast to last year,

when many fields remained flooded by spring rain," the report noted. "Farmers prefer to have all their rice planted by the end of May, and the California Rice Commission says it expects farmers to achieve that goal."

## CROP REPORTS

**Charles Denver, Denver Crop Consulting, Watson, Ark.:** "We're probably 50% planted, and what's up looks good. It's been too wet to plant for the last 10 days, and it's still too wet. We didn't have a lot of rice up before Easter, but about 60% of it had to be replanted. Normally when we get a cold spell in April, it's just a few days. This time, though, the cold lingered. It was 9 days before we knew it wasn't going to get down to freezing at night again."

**Garry N. McCauley, Extension Rice Production Specialist, Eagle Lake, Texas:** "We're starting to flood up. Across our rice belt, we're 90%-plus planted, but some growers are really just starting to plant on the east side of Houston. In most places, rice looks pretty good. We're getting nutrient problems in some locations. Last Friday, we estimated that 5% was under flood. Today (Tuesday), it's about 10%, and more is going to flood every day. It's also been raining above the lakes all week, and hopefully that means we won't have any water issues when growers need water out of the canals."

**Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.:** "Rice looks really good. We're cleaning it up with  
(Continued)

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different combinations. Some growers will probably put on a light flood later in the week.”

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** “We’re getting a lot of calls about leaf miners, and we’re still finding these atypical situations where they’ve built in fields that have not been flooded. Normally, they are only found where rice is in water. Not every case we’re called about turns out to be miners or necessarily the main problem. One field we visited had herbicide damage. Another field was suffering from what we call localized decline. But miners are causing damage, and people are spraying where they have to and can.

“Growers are calling about rice water weevil populations, too. It’s a little later than normal, but that may be due to cooler weather earlier. When we get a combination of miners and weevils, we’re telling farmers to treat for the weevils because miners would be secondary in the amount of damage they can cause. We don’t know if pyrethroids control miners because they’re not labeled for them. We would rather go with a weevil material to make sure we don’t miss them, since the weevil is more critical.

“Some rice in south Louisiana will be topdressed next week, so we’re at midseason down here. Even though it’s been a drawn out season, the early rice has still been progressing. In north Louisiana, they’re just starting to get some fields flooded up. Our verification field in West Carroll Parish is about to get a flood.”

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** “It’s been kind of quiet. A little over 80% of the crop has been planted, which is 6% behind the 5-year average. Right now, everybody is looking at weed control options. In some of these fields, Command has been out quite a while and is starting to break. We’ll be flooding our first fields soon. One guy in southwest Arkansas said he would probably flood one field late this week.”

**DeWayne Dopslauf, Agrilience, Wharton, Texas:** “Of the rice I work, we’ve got it all the way from not planted up to fields that we’re trying to take to flood next week. Maybe a fourth of my rice is approaching flood now. Growers on the west side of Houston were able to get more planting done earlier. On the east side, one of my growers started on March 9 and has finished, but there are other growers who haven’t started yet. We’re making some grass and broadleaf applications. A lot of Command has been going out, and we’ve seen a little more injury than anticipated on some varieties. One field was about the whitest I’ve ever seen, but it’s going to be fine. Some of our rice went through a low of 34 degrees over the Easter weekend. It set

plants back, but they’ve come out of it and will be going to flood soon. But I was still sweating bullets over it for a while.”

**Rudy Randleman, Rudy’s Field Service, Paragould, Ark.:** “We’re probably 95% planted. I’m looking at rice today (Monday) that ranges from emerging to 3 true leaves. Some rice was stunted due to the freeze, and we were afraid it might die. But it came through pretty good. Rice that was up when the freeze came fared much better than the corn. I thought it would be the other way around. Most of our customers started planting around April 18 to 21, so we missed the cold weather on much of the crop and have had nothing but ideal days and nights since then. Stands are healthy, and rice has made a much better start than in the last couple of years.”

**Brent Griffin, Agronomist, Cache River Valley Seed, LLC, Cash, Ark.:** “Planting is right at 70% completed, and some folks are done. Warm weather and humidity have really helped. A lot of the rice planted in the last week of March was bitten off by the Easter freeze, but it came back great. We’ve cleaned up grass and broadleaf weeds and are trying to get urea applied and move toward a shallow flood. There has been pythium in areas where rice wasn’t treated with a fungicide, and a few stands were lost to early seedling disease. Also, a few grape colaspis are showing up, but nothing like what we’re hearing about on the Grand Prairie.”

**Nathan Buehring, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist:** “With these warm temperatures, rice is moving right along. We’ll probably start putting on fertilizer and water next week. The forecast calls for rain, and that might delay things somewhat. We’ve been blessed with rain. Except for some flushing in March to get rice up, I don’t know of anyone who’s turned on a well.”

## ON THE WEB

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