

SoyFax: Midsouth

Arkansas:

If rain doesn't develop by early next week, irrigation will be needed to maintain best yield potential in many fields, says Lanny Ashlock, Extension Soybean Specialist.

Ashlock and his associates are seeing some research verification fields move toward irrigation. On one field in Crittenden County, the irrigation scheduling program indicates that the soil is at a 1.5" moisture deficit. The triggering point on the clay soil type is a 2" deficit. With plants in the reproductive stage, they are drawing down about a quarter of an inch of water a day, so the field is only about two days away from a recommended watering point if it doesn't rain in the meantime.

Planting is 75% to 80% completed. Scattered showers have held up wheat harvest and delayed progress in some areas.

Damage from grape colaspis has shown up in fields mainly west of Crowley's Ridge and in fields

with two to three years of continuous soybeans. Salt problems in northeast Arkansas also have been reported. In that same area, heavy rains three weeks ago pounded fields, and plants have had a harder time growing off. Ashlock also is checking on indications of herbicide damage and some seedling disease.

"We're seeing a little bit of a lot of things," he says. "Looking at the crop in its totality, though, it's in better shape than it has been in several years at this point. Now what we need is a good, general rain."

Louisiana:

While the crop looks "pretty good" in much of the state, some fields have problem stands with dying plants, says Walter Morrison, Extension Soybean Specialist. "It looks like *Phytophthora*, but we're not picking up all the symptoms that we'd expect. The plants that are dying are 8" to 10" tall."

Fields in northeast Louisiana are in "pretty good shape for moisture," says Morrison. Much of that

area received rain last week. The south part of the state remains in a drought, with growers waiting for rain before they plant remaining acreage. Prospects for the corn crop there continue to deteriorate, he adds.

Some spraying is underway for stinkbugs in corn.

Roger Carter with Agricultural Management Services in Clayton, La., says growers should be closely scouting their blooming soybeans for stinkbugs.

"Stinkbugs have been present at higher than normal numbers for 30-plus days," Carter notes. "As soybeans bloom, a sustained population will continue to disrupt pod set, and the end result will be green stalks and few pods."

Carter and his associates will soon recommend treating stinkbugs on 50% of the soybeans they monitor, he estimates.

On the weed control front, Carter says the addition of Classic or Resource to Roundup treatments has increased morningglory and

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Sesbania control. About 60% of the soybeans in his area are Roundup Ready.

Mississippi:

The crop is experiencing some problems relating to changing conditions, says Alan Blaine, Extension Soybean Specialist. The crop in May and June went from a very dry condition to a saturated state with strong rains and then reverted to drought stress when more rain failed to develop.

“We’re seeing some root systems aborting from *Phytophthora*,” says Blaine. “It’s showing up in low spots in fields where water stood longer. We do need another rain now, but not another one of those 5- or 6-inch downpours.”

Some verification fields are being watered now for the second time. Moisture reserves from the last rains have been depleted. Moisture demand on early planted fields now is running .25" a day or 1" every four days, Blaine specifies.

No concerted pest pressure is showing up this week. And despite problem spots in some fields, the crop overall looks “pretty decent,” he adds. “But we’ve still got a long way to go.”

Mo Bootheel:

Doublecrop planting has started in his area, and there’s enough moisture to make a stand, says David Guethle, County Extension Agent in Dexter, Mo. Some of the early beans are still struggling after the pounding they took from heavy rains in late May.

“We’re seeing some setback from herbicides. Also, we’re finding diseases that we normally see earlier in the season,” says Guethle.

“Overall, crop looks pretty decent, but there are problem fields here and there.”

Disease problems were probably forced on plants by the May rains, which included some 8" and 10" accumulations. Cold conditions in the last couple of weeks probably contributed, too, he suspects.

The area has had hit-and-miss showers over the last 14 days but no substantial rain. Widespread showers right now would help move the crop along, says Guethle.

Wheat harvest is 80% to 90% complete. Guethle has heard of yields in the 80- to 90-bu/acre range but also averages in the 40s and 50s.

Tennessee:

The state continues to need sustained showers, says Wayne Flinchum, Extension Soybean Specialist. Lack of rainfall, combined with insect pressure, is killing some planes.

Three-cornered alfalfa hoppers are showing up earlier than normal and putting additional stress on plants already suffering from lack of moisture. Grape colaspis also has been feeding on roots in some fields, leading to plant mortality. Grasshopper migration into scattered fields remains a problem, as well.

Tennessee obtained a 24C state use label for Orthene 90S for use on soybeans for grasshopper control. “Most people have been using Furadan,” says Flinchum. “This (the Orthene label) adds one more product to the arsenal.”

Thrips also are showing up in a number of fields. The state has no treatment thresholds in soybeans. Based on observations by ento-

mologists, Flinchum says soybeans tend to compensate for high thrips counts.

Lack of rainfall has delayed doublecrop planting in the last week. Some planted seed also remains ungerminated.

Strong wheat yields continue to be reported, he says. Averages in the 70- to 80-bushel range are “somewhat common,” with a few cases of 90-bushel production, he says. It’s uncertain how much of the wheat crop was mowed or burned down after disease outbreaks and/or winter kill.

SE Texas:

Row crops on the state’s upper Gulf Coast continue to look excellent, says Arlen Klosterboer, Extension Specialist.

“Farmers do need to start scouting closely for stinkbugs,” he says. “They can be devastating as surrounding crops are harvested. Last year, I saw one field hit by stinkbugs that probably had 35-bushel potential and it was knocked down to a 5-bushel average, if that much. We need to increase our vigilance as these Group IVs start pod set.”

In the El Campo area, stinkbugs are turning up in some soybeans “at slightly below threshold,” reports Dan Bradshaw with Crop Aid Agri Consultants. Bradshaw is watching the populations closely and expects to recommend treatments shortly.

“They’re building a little, and it’s necessary to do something when you have those kinds of populations for an extended period,” he says. “The beans are too good right now not to protect them.”