

SoyFax: Midsouth

Overview:

Scattered areas received good amounts of rainfall over the weekend, but general rains still are needed through much of our coverage area.

Shortages of poly-pipe have become critical in areas where it's used. Where poly-pipe is available, our contacts report the pipe is often in lower wall thickness ranges or in smaller diameters than growers want. One consultant says he made numerous calls without success looking for 15" pipe. Where he found 12" or 18" pipe, "the price was high."

More acreage, in general, is being irrigated this season, our contacts generally agree. The Missouri bootheel, according to a couple of accounts, is seeing a big jump in poly-pipe use this summer. One outcome in all this may be that more first-year poly-pipe will be saved for 2001, one Extension specialist noted.

We have reports this week from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and southeast Texas.

Arkansas:

The state's soybean crop still needs a rain but it continues to show good prospects, says Lanny Ashlock, Extension

Soybean Specialist.

"In spite of everything, we still have a shot at a pretty fair crop, provided we get some good, general rainfall," says Ashlock. "The crop actually looks better at this point than it has in the last two years. If we go another week without substantial rainfall, we'll still cut a crop, only it's not going to bounce back to the potential it has right now."

Extreme NE Arkansas received some rain over the weekend but most of the rest of Arkansas missed significant moisture. Temperatures have cooled down relative to last week's scorching weather. That's helping cool down plants and also taking some of the pressure off rice wells to hold floods. That, in turn, could make a bit more water available for soybeans.

Scattered worm treatments have been made. Outbreaks of fall armyworms prompted applications in White County in young soybeans, he notes.

A reminder from Ashlock that upcoming field days are scheduled at: Rohwer (August 3); Stuttgart (Rice Field Day, August 9); and Kaiser (August 10).

Louisiana:

Two kinds of soybeans are evident in the state right now, says Walter

Morrison, Extension Soybean Specialist.

"You've got beans going down hill because they haven't got enough moisture and can't be irrigated," says Morrison. "And you've got those that are getting water and, for the most part, look fantastic. The difference is very striking."

Some areas did get rain over the weekend, with reports of a few tenths to 4"-plus in luckier spots.

Caterpillars remain light, Morrison reports. It's still a little early for outbreaks, but the pattern can develop by mid August, he points out.

Stinkbug treatments were reported in several areas. In Morehouse Parish, a few fields have been sprayed, says Terry Erwin, Extension Agent. Pod feeding worms are sub-threshold, but "huge swarms of moths are coming out of drying corn right now," he adds. A small amount of corn is being harvested and samples are being cut, Erwin says.

Grady Coburn, with Pest Management Enterprises in Cheneyville, has treated a number of fields for stinkbugs and a few fields for corn earworms. Some of his growers received 4" or more of rain when the front moved through. So far, the hot and dry

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conditions earlier in the month “took the top off” aerial web blight. “I think a lot of my MG IVs will slip by without a fungicide treatment,” says Coburn.

Morrison saw a field of March planted beans in Red River Parish that had been desiccated and probably would be harvested by the end of the week.

Mississippi:

The state’s early crop still shows excellent potential, but it’s going to take one to two more rains to keep it adequately filling pods, says Alan Blaine, Extension Soybean Specialist. About the only rain the state’s growing areas received in the last week was a narrow band of showers running across the state that delivered anywhere from a few tenths to 2”.

“The cooler temperatures are a nice break, but we still need a good, general rain,” says Blaine.

A number of fields, including most of his research verification fields, have been through four furrow irrigations, says Blaine. Pivot fields in the program have made seven rounds trying to keep up with heat and demand.

Blaine received several calls over the weekend from growers looking for poly-pipe. Jim Thomas, Extension Ag Engineer, has been talking with producers about building shallow flumes to move water along the tops of fields as an alternative where poly-pipe isn’t available, Blaine adds.

Aerial web blight has started showing up in some north Delta fields and plots at Stoneville. A request has been filed for a crisis exemption to use Quadris on soybeans, Blaine reports.

“We’re hoping to get the exemption,” he adds. “Otherwise, we don’t have an option. From both an efficacy and cost standpoint, it’s given us an excellent yield response, particularly where land has been rotated with rice and where beans are irrigated.”

Some Dimilin is going out in verification fields where small worms are present and fields have strong potential. The goal, says Blaine, is to buy

time. “In many cases, this helps us eliminate the need to spray twice,” he says. “It’s a low cost management tool in the right fields.”

On the insect front, pressure is increasing only slightly, says Jim Hamer, Extension Entomologist working in the verification program.

“The biggest thing we’re seeing are hatchouts of stinkbugs in some places where plants are filling pods and are very susceptible,” says Hamer. “This is the first field generation developing, and everyone needs to monitor closely.”

Some verification acreage was treated last week in the central Delta for the pest, he adds.

Worms are up some, and three-cornered alfalfa hoppers are in high numbers in some fields. Watch for girdling of racemes by three-cornered alfalfa hoppers, says Hamer.

Tennessee:

A number of areas caught showers over the weekend, with totals of .5” to 1.5”, and that’s giving late planted fields a boost, says Wayne Flinchum, Extension Soybean Specialist.

“The wheat beans are now above the straw and growing,” says Flinchum.

Insects continue to dog the state’s crop. Monitor for stinkbugs. Three-cornered alfalfa hoppers are evident in doublecrop stands and can girdle plants, Flinchum stresses.

“Grasshoppers are slowing down,” he adds. “They’re not behind us yet and they need to be watched. But the plants are making foliage now faster than the grasshoppers can eat, so we’re staying ahead of the 20% defoliation threshold.”

Worms are the next concern, says Flinchum, as corn matures and insects start looking for the next green crop.

A reminder from Flinchum that the Milan No-Till Field Day starts at 7:30 a.m. Thursday.

SE Texas:

Spotted rains fell over the area during the weekend, with totals from less than a half inch up to nearly 2”. Hope-

fully, the showers aren’t too late to have a positive effect on early maturing soybeans that are still filling pods, says Arlen Klosterboer, Extension Specialist.

“They certainly look better with the rain,” he notes. “It could have come earlier and helped more, but at this point we will certainly take all we can get. One more rain would help significantly on early maturing varieties that were planted somewhat later.”

Some harvesting continues in the El Campo areas in early planted fields, says Dan Bradshaw with Crop Aid Agri Consultants. In three fields where Bradshaw and growers were running yield comparisons, averages ranged from 47 to 57 bu/acre. The higher yields were on better land in a good rotation pattern with a strong fertility program, he says.

“This was the first time I’ve been able to talk this grower into early planting, and I’ve told him that 57 bushels was beginners luck,” Bradshaw says.

The challenge right now is to keep shuffling water to soybeans from rice. Where some rice growers are setting up for second-crop rice production and putting on a flood, beans are suffering.

“We received up to 1.9” of rain in places, and that bought us a few days,” says Bradshaw. “We’ve got fields with very good pod sets but plants have been unable to fill them without irrigation. Things were really getting dry.”