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SoyFax: Midsouth

June 6, 2001

A large portion of our coverage area received rain over the last week. A number of locations have picked up 2"-plus. Soybeans are growing. So are weeds and grass. Blooming is well underway in many of the MG IV fields, and we had one report today of early pod formation in Louisiana and on some MG IIIs in southeast Arkansas.

Grasshoppers continue to be a persistent problem in scattered places, mainly associated with no-till production. Stinkbugs are cited as a problem in corn in several instances, and one Arkansas entomologist reported a threshold population of stinkbugs in a field of MG IVs. Traps in two areas in Arkansas also are picking up high counts of beet armyworm moths.

Reports this week were made between late Monday afternoon and this afternoon.

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: "Most everywhere in our soybean production area caught a rain or several

rains in the last few days, and it's raining today (Wednesday) in a big part of the state. Places in the south Delta that were dry last week have moisture now. The immediate push will be herbicide treatments. Where you've been waiting for everything to come up, the weeds and grass are going to be there now. We're considering treating some fields by air because of the way weeds are growing now and the delay in treating by ground. Grasshoppers continue to be a problem in no-till fields. The rain may green up ditchbanks and borders and help hold grasshoppers out of fields."

Lanny Ashlock, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "Parts of Arkansas are still dry enough to plant soybeans. We planted some on clay yesterday (Tuesday) in the Arkansas River Valley. A good deal of the rain fell in the southern half of the state. We're in that time of the year that we might not get another rain for 2 weeks, so growers with early stands may actually find it necessary to irrigate later this month if the weather goes into a

typical June pattern. We're seeing some nematode damage in our real early maturing varieties. It's in fields where nematodes weren't a problem for years, but growers had been growing resistant varieties. We're seeing damage now where folks opted for early varieties with herbicide resistance but gave up nematode resistance in the selection. That resistance has still got to be considered. Where anyone is shifting to soybeans on acreage that hasn't been in the crop for 3-5 years, they need to consider inoculating the seed to reestablish bacteria for nodulation. Some cotton ground, we hear, may shift to soybeans because of hail damage and other stand problems. We're over 70% planted, and a few wheat beans have been seeded now, too."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "We were trying to put out a grasshopper test in Lincoln County in SE Ark. today (Wednesday) in an early soybean production system (ESPS) field and found a threshold level of stink-

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bugs. These ESPS fields are podding up now, so you'd better be checking them for this insect. It seems early to see them and doesn't bode well for later planted fields. I'm getting a lot of calls about thrips in soybeans. We don't have a threshold because research done several years ago in Arkansas showed no economic benefit to treating thrips in beans. But I doubt if those tests were based on pressure people are finding now. I'm being told about thrips covering up the plants, blackening terminals and sucking plants down to nothing. If thrips are present and doing severe damage, and especially in conjunction with grasshoppers, then treatment probably is warranted. Beet armyworm trap counts have been abnormally high in Miller County in SW Ark. and Woodruff County (west of Memphis). This may relate to high beet armyworm pressure in Texas."

Curt Johnson, Agronomy Production Specialist, Agrilience Tech Services, Dermott, Ark.: "A customer told me today (Tuesday) that he already had pods forming on his MG IIIs. The soybean crop in my area looks good. We've been catching rains fairly well lately. But a few growers have yet to plant the first soybean because rains have held them up. A couple of growers are considering rice behind some wheat."

Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.: "Our soybean crop is really struggling. Some of our early beans look good, but anything planted in the last 3 weeks has had to deal with wet weather. We've had 4-5 rains in the last 14 days. There are a lot of drowned out places and bare spots. What happens with the wheat will affect the amount of doublecrop soybeans we have. Growers may have to rut out a lot

of this wheat, which means some fields will go into summer fallow. Corn and milo look fantastic. Corn is tasseling. If it stopped raining now I think we still would have a good milo crop. At this rate we could see some milo cut in the first week of August."

Marvin Lott, Sales Rep, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Cleveland, Miss.: "MG IVs are looking good. Overall, the soybean crop has tremendous potential. We've caught some .5" to 1" rains in the last week or so, and some areas picked up 2" last Wednesday. Some wheat has been cut but there aren't any reports yet on yields. There should be good moisture for gaining a doublecrop soybean stand. The rain also has been bringing up the weeds and grass. In the last week we've seen a lot of grass herbicides -- Assure, Select and Fusion -- go out on the non-transgenic soybeans."

David Guethle, County Extension Agent/Rice, Dexter, Mo.: "Some rain this week would help everything. We're not critical yet but are moving that way. Corn, soybeans and cotton all need rain. Without good showers by Friday we will have to start irrigating corn again. We're mostly finished planting soybeans now. Some early stands are disappointing. They were planted in dry dirt, then got a packing rain, and the soil crusted over. Seedling disease has been a problem and some stands have been spotty. We went for 4-5 weeks across much of the county without rainfall, then 10 days ago got 1" to 1.5". Soybeans planted after that look good."

Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: "There isn't much activity in beans right now. MG IVs are at prebloom. Grasshoppers are out there but not enough to consider any action. We're

watching them, but stands are good enough that they aren't an economic concern right now. Corn is coming along good. We're really picking up stinkbug activity in corn, and we've treated borders. There's a pretty good mixture of greens and browns, and we're going with a pretty good shot of methyl or a high rate of Orthene."

Craig Massey, Area IPM Specialist, Brownsville, Tenn.: "We have some soybeans with heavy thrips pressure. No treatments have been made yet. There are fields where soybeans haven't grown off too well, and thrips are heavy on them and causing leaf crinkling. Usually, soybeans can handle thrips, but they do need to be monitored. Grasshoppers are still out there, increasing in some spots and declining in others."

Marion Farris, Louisiana Area Agent (Pest Management), Coushatta, La.: "There are some excellent stands of beans in the area -- and some that are not so excellent. Many of the early beans are blooming and starting to set pods. The major problems that I have observed are weeds and grasshoppers. Grasshoppers are in the middle of large fields and are devouring foliage and terminals. Most 'hoppers are still in the nymphal stage and can be controlled. However, some of them are becoming large and will be more difficult to kill. Orthene, Sevin, Dimethoate, Lorsban, methyl parathion and several pyrethroids are labeled for grasshoppers. Follow the label. If it doesn't have the insect or crop on the label do not use it." Marion's weekly crop update is available on our web site at: agfax.com/midsouth/redriver.htm