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# SoyFax: Midsouth

## June 12, 2002

Here is this week's issue of *SoyFax: Midsouth*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A., maker of Select, Cobra and Valor. New subscriptions can be requested online at: [agfax.com/subs](http://agfax.com/subs). We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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## Overview

Warm weather continues to push the crop. Rains have developed every day during the last week in some part of our coverage area, though certain locations remain dry. Irrigation has started on a few fields. Stinkbugs are being treated in some early beans.

These reports were made Tuesday-Wednesday, May 11-12.

## Crop Reports

**Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist:** "Rains have been erratic, and we could still use a good general rain across Mississippi. Areas south of U.S. 82

have missed good rains, and we've started irrigating several verification fields. The early crop is in peak moisture demand, and some fields even needed watering in late May.

"We're still getting calls about grasshoppers. Our standard treatments haven't let us down yet. If grasshoppers are mainly on field edges you probably can spot treat borders. We've learned in the last 3 years that you've got to control them now before they get bigger and pressure builds. Otherwise, you'll be trying to control large grasshoppers after the crop canopies. Right now, they're a lot easier and cheaper to kill.

"Also, we've sprayed a couple of fields for stinkbugs in the Greenwood area. These fields were planted in March, and stinkbugs were spilling over from other crops. We've gotten a new Section 18 for Intrepid. That will help with worms.

"A lot of people are trying to wrap up weed control. In Roundup Ready beans the teaweed continues to give us fits. It makes you wish you had a preemergence down in

a lot of situations.

"Snails still are a problem in a number of no-till fields. They're not killing plants outright, but numbers are so great that plants are top heavy. They're leaning over and touching the ground. With dry conditions, snails are trying to extract moisture from plants. We've had good luck with Karate at 1:100, and we're seeing cases of pyrethroids doing a good job on snails in cotton."

**Dwayne Beaty, Area Extension Soybean Agronomist, Monticello, Ark.:** "Things are turning around pretty well, and the crop looks better than it has all season. We've still got an occasional field that hasn't fully come out of the effects of too much rain and too much cold weather, but every day with good growing conditions helps a bit. But some of these fields will need a rain before long because of decreased root development.

"We started irrigating a field today (Wednesday) in SE Arkansas that missed some of the earlier

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showers. The irrigation scheduler program indicates that it's at a 2" deficit.

"Insect pressure is low. Webworms aren't a problem in the Arkansas River Valley now, and plants are growing fast enough to keep ahead of defoliation. Across all our verification fields, it's running 5% to 10%. We're seeing grasshoppers on field edges. If they're still at these levels when beans start blooming then we'll treat. A few stinkbugs are showing up. It's not an immediate concern, but we know they're out there."

**Allen Hogan, Interim Louisiana Soybean Specialist and Jeff Davis Parish Extension Agent, Jennings, La.:** "We're all busy trying to kill weeds. Beans planted in mid May to early June are beginning to look woolly. There's a big push to line up treatments and calibrate spraying equipment. We continue to emphasize the need to check fields a week after treatment to see if a second application is needed before canopy closure."

"Some seedling disease is apparent in beans planted late last month. It may be rhizoctonia, which isn't uncommon in late planted beans. It develops when you go through cycles of extremely hot temperatures followed by rain."

"It's rained nearly everywhere around the state in the last week, but there still may be pockets that didn't receive any or didn't get enough to matter."

**Lanny Ashlock, Agronomist, Cullum Seed Co., Fisher, Ark.:** "Soybeans have really started growing in just the last couple of weeks. The early plantings look pretty good to me, though they're not as far along as usual due to the delays earlier. Grasshoppers are present, and we're also finding stinkbugs way above threshold in some MG IVs that are blooming

and setting pods. In a field at Holly Grove south of Brinkley I turned up 21 stinkbugs in 25 sweeps. Those were all green, but I've seen browns in other fields."

"We started irrigating two fields Tuesday in our MAP (Maximum Agronomic Profit) program, but one got enough rain that we could shut down the pumps. We also should finish up a third field today. All were in the southeast quadrant of the state."

**Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.:** "Two of our MG IV fields have been treated for stinkbugs. They were podding, and stinkbug counts were so high that we had to recommend an application. Most have been southern green stinkbugs, but a third to a half in some fields were browns or dusky browns."

"We got some good rains throughout our area Monday, and that helped a few spots that have missed most rain the last two months. We can finish bean planting now. Our cotton acreage will be 30-35% less than we expected due strictly to dry weather, and we're going with soybeans now."

**Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.:** "Our soybean crop looks beautiful. Weed control has been good, and stands are excellent in most cases. This is probably the best potential we've had for soybeans in a long time. The weather prohibited us from planting a lot of the MG IVs we'd hoped to have. But what we've got now isn't necessarily a late crop. An awful lot of our wheat beans are up. Nothing is dry. We've either got adequate moisture or excessive amounts."

**Marion Farris, Extension Area Entomologist, Coushatta, La.:** "We've had rain north of Shreveport and along the Arkansas line, but it gets very dry in some areas

as you go south. The MG IVs are flowering and maybe a few of them are setting little pods. They're not in good shape or gaining much growth where it's been dry. The same is true for corn. Where rains have been good it looks okay. But in dry areas it's burned up and twisted."

**Mike McCain, Manager, Agrilience, Shelby, Miss.:** "We're pretty much through planting soybeans. About all we lack is 20% of our wheat beans. We would have been through by now but the area picked up another .8" to 1.5" of rain over the weekend. We've made the first treatment on Roundup Ready beans and would be into the second if rain hadn't delayed us."

**Craig Massey, Area IPM Specialist, Brownsville, Tenn.:** "Soybeans are looking good. Corn and milo are, too. We picked up scattered showers early in the week, from .6" to 1.5", and that was a blessing for soybeans. We've sprayed a few fields for grasshoppers. Otherwise, pest pressure is light. Growers are still trying to plant fields in river bottom counties where the water is receding."

**Allen McKnight, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.:** "We're mainly doing weed control work, trying to clean up fields before they canopy. There are no pest problems right now. A lot of corn irrigation is underway, and several fields of soybeans and even some cotton are being watered, too. Rains have been so sporadic that we continue to have fields that are running a moisture deficit. Most people have enough pipe and pumping capacity. The main shortage right now is simply manpower. There aren't enough people to get everything going at one time. The priority is on watering corn and rice."