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SoyFax: Midsouth

May 1, 2002

Here is this week's issue of *SoyFax: Midsouth*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A., maker of Valor and Select.

SoyFax also is available by e-mail. To switch to electronic delivery, fax a request to 601-992-3503 or e-mail us at owen@agfax.com. We also publish weekly cotton and rice reports and can add you to those lists upon request.

We welcome your comments and questions.

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Overview:

Parts of our coverage area received needed rains this week. Northeast Arkansas, north Mississippi and West Tennessee picked up showers yesterday, and some areas in the central Delta received rain a few days ago.

But many areas remain dry. Some planting has stopped while growers wait for rain, and there

were reports of early stress in corn here and there.

This week's reports were made Tuesday and Wednesday, April 30 and May 1.

Crop Reports:

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: "We're 50% to 60% planted and making excellent progress. On the north end of the state some folks got rain yesterday (Tuesday), and parts of the central Delta caught rain a couple of days ago. But the south Delta is still dry, and there are other areas that need rain.

"We continue to monitor fields for weed pressure. If you flag some morningglory you may find that it's still not growing that fast with the cool nights lately. That may lead you to delay post treatments. The longer you can do that the better. Waiting a little longer might let you get by with one treatment, or you can catch more weeds that emerge after the next rain.

"Where folks didn't burn down

early we're seeing problems with vegetation siphoning away moisture needed for germination and growth. We continue to believe that early burndowns help minimize some of these weird, early insect problems.

"We're starting to pick up some grasshoppers. We've also been working with fields that have slugs and beanleaf beetles. None of this has been at treatable levels. Numbers aren't getting away from us, and plants are growing fast enough to keep ahead of economic damage.

"Grasshoppers were a major headache last year. This year, I'm expecting two things. Folks who did some tillage will see a tremendous decline in pressure. Also, I think the wet winter weather will knock down some numbers. We aren't seeing nearly the pressure we had this time last year.

"Materials of choice if you have a problem are Dimilin at an ounce and Orthene. If there's a lot of veg-

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etation in the field, Dimilin has been our choice. As grasshoppers feed on vegetation, they ingest the material. It works slowly, but it's effective, and you can slip it into a burndown or postemergence treatment.

"If you don't have vegetation we've recommended Orthene. The manufacturer stands behind the .3 lb/acre rate. This was an effective approach last year. Water volume is critical. With the .3 lb rate we're recommending 10 gal/acre. If you cut the rates to .2 lb/acre then you'd better increase water volume to 15 gal/acre."

Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.: "We're in the same boat with soybeans and cotton. Dry weather is holding us up, and planting has stopped or slowed down until we get rain. A few soybeans have been planted and are up. Those up are in stale seedbed fields, and they also need a rain. We're at cotyledon to V1, which is about where our cotton is, too. We need rain on both crops, but probably on beans right now more than cotton."

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.: "Quite a few of our MG IVs have been planted and are starting to come up. In Tallahatchie County where we've got some large soybean acreage they're on the tailend of planting beans. At the end of last week one grower with 3,000 to 4,000 acres told me he had about 500 acres left. We have high water going down on the Tallahatchie River and will start planting some of that as the water recedes. We have more corn than last year but not nearly the amount of increase that some people predicted earlier."

Craig Massey, Area IPM Specialist, Brownsville, Tenn.: "We're nearly finished planting corn and

about 70% finished with milo. Wet weather earlier delayed corn, so that's pushed back soybeans some. We're 60% to 70% complete on soybeans. We're wrapping up the MG IVs and moving into the Vs now. Cotton planting is about 40% completed.

"We're already seeing a few stinkbugs in wheat and pastures and thrip in cotton, so this looks like it has the potential to be another insect year."

Tony Anderson, Manager, UAP-Delta, Tallulah, La.: "We have a few soybeans planted but aren't fully into soybean planting yet. Moisture is an issue with cotton and beans, and that's holding things up. We're already moving a little polypipe for irrigating corn. Here in Madison Parish it looks like we'll mainly plant MG Vs."

Mike McCain, Manager, Agriliance, Shelby, Miss.: "We've managed to catch showers through here and are about 80% planted on our MG IVs, and we'll probably wrap up those next week where they can water them. Some are shifting to MG Vs now. We've got some really good stands of soybeans already. A lot of the crop was planted rough. I wouldn't exactly call it no-till, just kind of put into the ground in a hurry. They were able to hit it with Roundup early and clean it up."

"We've got some preemergence materials going out with the Roundup. There's more and more talk about that. Growers are saying that the glyphosate materials have gotten cheap enough that they can add a preemergence. They're mainly looking for ways to gain some flexibility in case it gets wet and they miss the window on Roundup."

"Right now they're mainly us-

ing older materials. like Prowl and Squadron, but there's also more talk about new products like Valor. We'll probably see them shifting to that with the MG Vs. They probably didn't want to make any changes with the earliest beans, but they'll try some new approaches when things settle down a little on the later plantings."

Reynold Minsky, Ind. Consultant, Lake Providence, La.: "It's awfully dry. Normally this time of the year we get a shower now and then, but they haven't been developing lately. A lot of beans are in and are looking good. Most of the MG IVs were planted in moisture and are coming up. They look good, but we could use rain to keep the potential going."