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SoyFax: Midsouth

May 29, 2002

Here is this week's issue of SoyFax: Midsouth, sponsored by Valent U.S.A., maker of Resource, Select and Valor. We welcome your comments and suggestions. -- *Owen Taylor, Editor*

Overview

As we close out this issue Wednesday afternoon more rain was developing across the Midsouth. Some was falling in places that don't need another drop right now. But other showers were gathering in parts of Louisiana and south Mississippi where rains have been scarce for the last two months.

The following reports were made Monday-Wednesday, May 27-29.

Crop Reports

Allen Hogan, Interim Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist, Jennings, La.: "Since late last week rains have ranged from nothing in parts of south Louisiana to 1" or more elsewhere. But we haven't had a general rain yet. We're suppose to get one today and Thursday, and it's needed.

"Where they could, growers planted a lot of beans last week in the southern

part of the state. But we still have fields that haven't seen a planter yet because it's just too dry."

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: "The south Delta still needs rain. We're hoping fronts this week bring some. There are scattered showers around (Wednesday morning).

"We're seeing more crop progress. Once the nights started warming up, the crop really took off, especially where it had moisture under it. We're finding a lot of weed emergence in some fields, and spraying is about to start or is underway in research verification fields. We're finishing up some Roundup Ready fields with the second application. A lot of fields are canopied or close to it.

"Some people are concerned about thrips, but we haven't seen a situation that justified treatment. Where some fields look bad, we believe damage was mainly due to cold, not thrips.

"The biggest pest we're encountering is the grasshopper. Orthene is doing a super job. But if you've got time, Dimilin is working, too. We treated a field Tuesday for snails where no-till beans were planted behind corn. They

were really working on the plants.

"I'm hearing concern about blooming soybean plants. Many fields are 40 days old now, so some blooming can be expected. The concern is that plants are small, but these are indeterminates, so they'll keep blooming. Once they get moisture they will continue to grow."

Dwayne Beaty, Extension Area Agronomist, Monticello, Ark.: "Things are finally turning around now that it's a little drier and warmer. We've still got problems in the northeast part of the state and in the Arkansas River Valley where rain and cold weather really worked against the crop.

"We've started getting more rain through parts of the state, but growers completed a good deal of planting last week where they could. Some replanting and spot planting are underway.

"We sprayed a verification field SW of Russellville last week for web worms. It was a borderline threshold, but the grower was making his second Roundup pass. We also were finding beanleaf beetles, cucumber beetles and even a few grasshoppers."

Tucker Miller, Ind. Consultant, Drew, Miss.: "Soybeans are looking

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pretty good, all things considered. We've put out a shot of Roundup with a half-rate of Frontrow. Soybeans have had some weather damage but are coming out of it. We've had isolated spots with grasshoppers and are putting out Dimilin or Orthene.

"Even though parts of our area have had rain -- including 3" around Marks Sunday -- we're irrigating corn from Sumner and Webb down to Indianola and Greenwood. It's showing stress on ends where we couldn't get to it.

"We've set out corn borer traps and are anticipating the second generation of southwestern corn borers soon. We treated the first generation in a lot of areas, which is unusual. Counts are low right now, maybe 5-6 per trap. Milo had a few spots with chinchbugs."

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "With the dry and cold conditions, very few of our soybeans have been planted yet, except for the early season acreage we managed to get out of the way. A few clients drilled some last week just to get them out of the way, and we're waiting for wheat harvest on the doublecrop acreage.

"Beans planted in the May 5-25 period usually are our worst, anyway, but we do alright with late MG Vs and early VIs because they will survive until September rains. Our IVs look okay so far. They're rooting well and are probably tapping into moisture.

"We're getting more stinkbugs out of the wheat and finding concentrations in corn. Out of 3,800 acres we scouted in Natchitoches Parish Tuesday, about 2,600 acres needed treatment. In one 40-acre field the entire population was the brown stinkbug. Except for treating one small patch of soybeans for grasshoppers we haven't done anything with insects in that crop.

"We still need rain and are hoping for something out of what's predicted for today (Wednesday) and the rest of the week. It's been April 7 since

significant, general rainfall here."

Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordville, Ark.: "A lot of beans were planted this last week. They're coming up and looking good. Due to cold, wet conditions and delays, we've now got more land shifting from cotton to soybeans. One grower who had 5,500 acres of cotton last year finally quit planting Saturday at 1,800 acres. Two growers who usually have 900 acres between them won't have a single acre of cotton this year.

"Most of the beans planted right now are on narrow rows, but where beds were already set up we've got some 38" soybeans. It's been a while since I've seen any of those. The corn looks good and is waist tall or better. Milo looks good, too."

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: "Our soybeans look pretty good -- those that are planted and not under water. We've still got a good number of acres to plant, and we've replanted more than our share, too. Parts of north Bolivar County got 5-6" of rain Sunday, and some spots around Malvina picked up 3.5" to 4", so there were some soybeans under water.

"We may have gotten 25% of our soybeans planted early, and most of those were from Benoit south."

Keith Collins, Richland Parish Extension Agent, Rayville, La.: "We finally got a good rain through here Sunday, with totals close to 2.5" in the southern part of the parish. We had another rain the previous Friday, which helped wrap up cotton planting. About the only thing to finish now are soybeans. That was the first saturating rain a lot of our corn has had since just after it was planted. In this parish 70-80% of our corn is irrigated, and growers have been struggling to keep up since the last good rains on April 7-8.

"Any soybeans planted now will

definitely be MG Vs. We were able to get some soybeans planted early, and they've been looking pretty fair considering weather conditions."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "We're getting a lot of thrips in soybeans, which is an indication of how high the populations are. We're encouraging growers and Extension agents not to treat unless thrips are killing plants. We've never been able to show a yield advantage in treating thrips on soybeans. If thrips stunt plants a little, you can live with it. The soybean plant has an amazing ability to compensate.

"I'm getting a lot of calls about small grasshoppers moving from field edges and weeds into the first couple of rows of soybeans or cotton. These are differential or redlegged grasshoppers. We have reports this year of pyrethroids not doing the job on grasshoppers. Lorsban is an option. You also can knock down populations with 2 ounces of Dimilin applied on field edges and non-crop vegetation. It takes time for that to work, but it's a cheap alternative if they aren't chewing into crops yet.

"Sugarcane beetle problems are still popping up in corn. Chinchbugs are as bad as I've ever seen them in corn and milo."

Jay Coker, Consultant/Grower, DeWitt, Ark.: "In the last 10 days about 80% of our area's early soybeans have been planted, but very few have emerged. Most growers are planting MG Vs and a few late IVs. They were just starting to plant some soybeans on May 5 when the weather turned bad.

"The cold, wet conditions really crowded a lot of work into a narrow window. In a typical season we would have beans planted and then fertilize and flood our rice. Or, we would reverse those steps and plant beans after moving rice to a flood. In the last two weeks we've been trying to do both."