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# SoyFax: Midsouth

**May 8, 2002**

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

SoyFax 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](mailto: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

Rains late last week have improved planting and crop prospects. Most of the showers developed from the Arkansas-Louisiana line north. Totals of 7" to 11" have been reported in extreme cases, but much of our coverage area picked up at least 1".

However, Louisiana and the south Delta remain dry, and plant-

ing has stopped in a number of locations.

These reports were made Monday-Wednesday, May 6-8.

## Crop Reports

**Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist:** "The bulk of the rain this week was north of Miss. 8. I heard of one location that picked up 11 inches, but that was the extreme. Some fields went under water, but the bulk of it ran off quickly.

"There are replanting concerns, but most people will be pleasantly surprised if they weren't trying to chase moisture. Some growers were putting beans 1.5" to 2" deep to find moisture. If they got this hard rain, those seed are 4" deep now and won't come up. People who went shallow and planted for a rain are probably in good shape. The soil is still cool enough that soybeans will wait a while for rain, and we usually get enough in May to bring them up.

"Not everybody got blessed. In

the south Delta there were folks who got less than 1", and a grower at Canton told me today (Wednesday) that he only measured .3".

"We continue to see a need for seed treatments. A grower said he decided not to use Apron last Wednesday because he had a clear forecast, then it rained Thursday, and now he has to replant.

"We're getting excellent emergence. In all of our research verification fields except two we're getting more plants than what we expected. This is with seeding rates and depths we specified, which reaffirms that there are opportunities to save on seed. With precision planting equipment and seed treatments we can get a higher percentage of seed up now.

"We're picking up grasshoppers in no-till fields and are ready to treat. With low numbers and where we've got some time, we're going with an ounce of Dimilin. With high numbers and a need for immediate control, we're going with .3 lb/acre

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of Orthene and increasing water volume. Ten gallons is better than five, and 15 is better than 10. These insects are small, and we can get good coverage and knock them back before they're a big problem.

"Also, scout turnrows and ditch banks for grasshoppers. With Roundup treatments starting, you can create a second infestation by killing back this vegetation. If grasshoppers are waiting on field edges you need to spray there, too.

"Snails are showing up. They're not in every field, but we're finding them enough today to advise growers to scout closely. They're not necessarily to the point that we need to treat, but we are monitoring them closely."

**Carl Hayden, Chicot County Extension Agent, Lake Village, Ark.:** "Rains last week ranged from a half inch to 1.5" around Lake Village. There were some higher totals reported in the extreme north end of the county, but we still have areas in the county where people didn't get enough rain to plant.

"Everybody here has been going heavily with MG IVs, so at least a third of our soybean crop was planted before we started running out of moisture early in the month. We may have half the crop planted by now. Our biggest beans are about 8" tall.

"Stinkbugs are out there, and we anticipate another heavy year. That's one reason IVs are gaining acreage. Getting them out early will help eliminate some spraying. We had a lot of greenbean syndrome (GBS) two years ago. There was less of it last year, but we also treated as many as three times. The biggest problems with GBS has been in fields planted after May 15."

**Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Exten-**

**sion IPM Specialist:** "We're seeing a lot of stinkbugs in wheat right now, including rice, green and brown stinkbugs. It looks like we'll have a stinkbug year, based on the numbers we're seeing. A lot of corn and milo fields also are being treated for chinchbugs."

**Craig Massey, Area IPM Specialist, Brownsville, Tenn.:** "We've planted 50% to 60% of our soybeans. Our biggest problem right now is marestalk in cotton, soybeans and corn. We had resistant marestalk confirmed last year in Crockett County, but we're seeing outbreaks in several counties this year. We can't say, yet, whether this is resistance or something else at work.

"We got a good bit of rain late last week, and it ranged from 1.5" to 2" on a pretty wide basis. Some people are just getting back into the field."

**Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.:** "Our wheat crop looks average at best, but it varies from some of the best we've ever had to some of the worst. The difference mainly depends on planting dates. Since last fall we've had three 10" rain events, and it looked like a lake around here. The rain in the first half of February probably did the most damage.

"A lot of our farmers backed off soybeans and increased grain sorghum acreage. We've got guys who went from zero to 2,500 acres of grain sorghum this year. But I also have one 3,500-acre rice farmer who's going totally with soybeans."

**John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.:** "Rainfall last week varied from .8" south of Shaw up to 7.8" in one gauge near Duncan. We need to get some Roundup sprayed on an awful lot

of our soybeans. They're getting grassy and weedy now. We're maybe 60% to 70% through planting beans. I think we can get into some higher and drier ground Wednesday."

**Tucker Miller, Ind. Consultant, Drew, Miss.:** "Most of our soybeans have been planted. We seem to be getting away from MG IVs and moving more toward Vs due to mold problems last year. The soybeans I check look good. Stands are strong and fairly clean.

"We're trying to make 60-bushel yields, using Mississippi's SMART program guidelines as closely as we can. That includes attention to seeding rates, disease, weeds and irrigation. We picked the top four to five varieties in the group the growers wanted to plant and put a good seed treatment on them.

"With all these MG Vs, I'm expecting stinkbug problems like last year. We should be alright if we can address problems quickly. Treatments can make a big difference. One grower last year lost 15 bu/acre when stinkbugs hit, and all he needed was methyl treatments twice or something similar to knock them down. He's been making good beans but got caught."

**Miles Brashier, Point Coupe Extension Agent, New Roads, La.:** "We were moving along pretty good on soybean planting until the drought hit, and everybody has stopped until it rains again."

**Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.:** "We need a rain. Some soybeans were planted, but not many, and people are waiting for rain. Those were MG IVs that growers planted in mid April. They're at two to three true leaves now."