

SoyFax: Midsouth

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Here is this week's *SoyFax*, sponsored by the Midsouth staff of Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of Valor™, Select® and other products designed for Southern soybean production.

OVERVIEW

Much of our coverage area missed the effects of Hurricane Claudette Tuesday, although a soaking rain would be welcomed now on a wide basis. Irrigation has started in north Louisiana and into the central and upper Midsouth. Some areas have caught showers, and south Louisiana continues to receive too much rainfall.

More stinkbugs are being treated, and we're hearing a few more reports about aerial blight.

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist, is attending the national county agents' convention this week. Before leaving town he sent us a report that includes additional information on managing soy-

beans in the late season. This report expands on his comments relating to Dimilin and Quadris.

We've posted his report on our web site at: agfax.com/updates/ms/blaine7-14.pdf.

The following reports were made Monday night, Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

CROP REPORTS

Angela Thompson, Tennessee Extension Soybean Specialist: "Producers hope to finish planting the last of their soybeans this week. We should be over 95% planted, with some fields getting skipped if producers can't get to them soon. Middle Tennessee has gotten good rains over the past few weeks, and this has really helped our latest planted soybeans there. Rainfall in western Tennessee has become very scattered over the past 3 weeks, and with the hot temperatures we need a good general rain.

"Most beans aren't showing obvious moisture stress yet but will be soon, particularly Group IIIs and IVs

which are at early pod development. Stinkbug pressure remains low, and only a very few fields have been sprayed for grasshoppers."

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "Soybean plantings are rapidly finishing up. Some small areas of doublecrop and fullseason fields should be finished in the coming days.

"Much of the crop remains in good to excellent condition. Due to scattered rains throughout the state, non-irrigated fields are beginning to show signs of drought stress. A majority of the early planted fields are well into reproductive stages and should be closely monitored for soybean insects, such as the stinkbug. Reports indicate this pest is beginning to show up in low numbers in some parts of the state. However, based on the weather forecast, it could easily hit thresholds.

"Drier and hotter weather has forced many producers to begin irrigating beans through much of the state. We've got a limited root sys-

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tem in many fields. With all the stress this crop has been under, it's got to be closely managed the rest of the season to minimize further loss in yield potential."

Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.: "We've sprayed a few fields of MG IVs for stinkbugs. Some Quadris and Dimilin have gone out on fields with high yield potential. On most of our MG Vs we're 7-10 days from making those treatments. We don't do this on every field. But in the last 4-5 years it's increased yields in fields where growers stay on schedule with irrigation and shoot for the best possible yields. Generally, these are the fields that a grower waters 4-5 times in a normal season."

John Hedden, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Service, McCrory, Ark.: "Soybeans are looking decent now. We're getting over the hump with herbicides, other than in late planted beans. Of the acres I work, 10-15% are fairly late, either just coming up or at 1st true leaf. Our MG IVs are blooming pretty good, and our MG Vs have a good stand. We've had adequate moisture up to now, but it's getting dry. People are watering 20-30% of the early beans, and they'll be irrigating 50-60% of the whole crop next week if we don't get rain in the meantime."

Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension agent, Bastrop, La.: "Our MG IVs, which are at full pod, are doing quite well. They took advantage of the rains earlier. We've got the potential for the highest yielding crop of IVs in a long time. Our MG Vs are in full and early pod set and look good, too. Some IVs have been sprayed for stinkbugs, but

nothing extraordinary. Corn is at full dent and 2 weeks from black layer. We anticipate some corn being cut in the 1st week of August. Dryland corn looks exceptional."

Jim Batchelor, General Manager, Tri-County Farmers Association, Brinkley, Ark.: "The soybean crop, overall, hasn't had a lot of stress in this county. We planted some real early MG IVs and even a few late MG IIIs, but then the spring rains kept us from planting a lot of mid IVs. Beans that we normally would plant in early June didn't go into the ground until late June due to the weather. A lot of bottoms weren't planted until about the time we usually plant doublecrop beans, and in Lee County they still may be planting some beans as the St. Francis River goes down.

"With our late IIIs and early IVs we could see some harvesting start in mid August. These fields are pretty solidly in the R4-5 stage. We've had some timely rains on corn, but we're irrigating now that corn is tasseling. Monroe County has a substantial corn crop, and we're a little concerned that it's going to come off at about the same time as the rice. It could be a challenging harvest for our farmers."

Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.: "The only soybeans we're treating right now are some of our early MG IVs, and not much of those. What few of those fields I check are acting as trap crops, and we'll probably treat them by the end of this week. That will be their second stinkbug application. We made one several weeks ago. The corn is behind us, pest-wise, and we'll start harvesting it in the next 10 days or

so if the weather will ever straighten up. Since the drought broke in late May and early June we've pretty much had one rain after another."

Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: "We're treating quite a bit for stinkbugs in early maturing beans. I haven't found any significant worm problems in any of our beans. There's some influx of aerial blight and other diseases, and we're doing fungicide treatments in spots with a history of aerial blight."

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: "Soybeans are looking better from Alexandria south. But there are areas in that part of the state that have gotten some pretty steady rains with as much as .5" of rain nearly every day for 10-14 days. I've encouraged growers in a number of situations to cultivate if they could to help aerate the soil and encourage some of these waterlogged fields to dry out.

"North of Alexandria there are areas with adequate soil moisture, but we've also settled into a drier pattern in places, and irrigation has started. Still, the rain this year has done nothing but help us. I'm seeing plants that are 40" tall and starting to flower, and they've got tremendous potential as long as showers keep coming or growers stay on top of irrigation.

"I'm hearing about some red crown rot, but we're not concerned about it yet. Aerial blight has shown up in limited locations. We've hit threshold with stinkbugs in some fields, and treatments have been made.

"Our oldest corn and grain sorghum are beginning to dry down."