

SoyFax: Midsouth

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June 11, 2003

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

OVERVIEW

As we closed this issue Wednesday morning, thunderstorms were sliding across a wide part of our coverage area. On radar it appeared that some rain had developed in parts of western Louisiana which have missed previous showers. Much of Arkansas and parts of Mississippi and West Tennessee also were under heavy cells. Our contacts this morning reported rain in Little Rock, Ark., the prairie region of Arkansas and in Tupelo, Miss.

No significant pest pressure has been reported this week. Warm weather over the last week has helped crop growth in areas that contended with cold, wet conditions in May.

Planting is still underway in many

areas. Wheat harvest has started, as well, across the Midsouth.

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

CROP REPORTS

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "Some of our corn is tasseling, and we've sprayed a few stinkbugs. Our soybeans are good and clean. A few beetles are moving in. We've got some real late beans and some real early ones, and they all look decent until about 1 p.m. After that, they look stressed. We need a rain. It's been April 25 since we've had significant rain in areas between Shreveport and Alexandria and south of Natchitoches."

Eddie Eskew, Jeff Davis Parish Extension Agent, Jennings, La.: "Rainfall continues to be erratic in SW Louisiana. A lot of beans have been planted in the northern part of this parish and in south Allen Parish. They got isolated showers 2 weeks ago and more rain since then.

"In the rest of the parish we've gotten some rain recently, but it's still

been scattered. At my house we've measured only .7" since Easter, but 4-5 miles away they've picked up 3-5". In some areas, farmers are looking for places where it's dry enough to plant, and in other parts of the parish growers are waiting for rain so they can continue planting.

"Where they can plant, everybody is going like crazy. Whatever we get planted this week may wrap it up."

Ross Wood, Manager and Certified Crop Advisor, Almyra Farmers, Almyra, Ark.: "Wheat is being cut and soybeans are being planted. We've probably got 85-90% of the soybean crop in the ground now. We're starting our 1st glyphosate application on a lot of the crop and are into the 2nd treatment on some fields."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "We're seeing some grape colaspis damage in soybeans in places that have been hotspots in the past, including Prairie, Woodruff and St. Francis counties. We're running seed treatment evaluations in that area to test for a possible preventive for growers with

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chronic grape colaspis problems.”

Mike McCain, Manager, Agrilience, Shelby, Miss.: “Soybeans have probably suffered more from the excessive rain in May than any other crop. A couple of farmers had to replant 700-800 acres each. Corn has fared well. It was planted early, then got all that rain. Fertilizer had to be delayed some, but it’s responding now, and a lot is tasseling.”

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: “We’re catching more showers today (Wednesday) on a pretty wide basis. On the radar, some looked heavy in NE and SE Arkansas. I’m in Monroe County, and there’s a good soaking rain here right now.

“Where people lost soil moisture due to tillage, this rain is welcomed. Parts of SE Arkansas probably didn’t need more showers right now, but we’ve generally learned not to turn down a rain in June.

“Warmer temperatures in the last 7 days have really helped plants take off, plus we’ve made a good deal of progress with planting. Herbicides have been going out during this break. Cleaning up these weeds has been our biggest struggle for the last 2 weeks. No insect problems appear to be creeping up on us.

“We’re probably 65-70% planted. Wheat is being cut, so that land will be planted soon.”

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: “We still have areas in SW and south-central Louisiana that are too dry to plant.

Some of that land may not be planted, partly due to availability of seed in the right maturity groups. Lots of these growers booked MG IVs, and there isn’t a ready seed supply of later maturing varieties to substitute. Some dealers in south Louisiana have seed, but they’re reluctant to let it go because they’re not sure what their local farmers will want.

“Otherwise, everything is positive. We’ve had a lot of planting underway in the last couple of days. Seed are leaving the warehouse by the pallet-load. Moisture is good in most other parts of the state. There’s no sustainable pest pressure. We have some MG IVs already at R2 to R3 with only 2 stinkbugs per 50 sweeps, and there are more beneficial insects present than harmful ones.

“In the corn, 80-90% is tasseled, and it’s had timely rainfall. I was in north Louisiana Tuesday with Jack Baldwin (Extension entomologist), and we were finding corn borers. There are fields up there that will need to be treated in the next day or so. Some early grain sorghum is fully headed, and applications are going out for stinkbugs and midges.”

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: “Things are pretty quiet. No big insect problems are turning up. People are mainly catching up on weed control work and planting in NE Mississippi and in the north Delta where they got so much rain and flooding.

“I’d like to make 2 cautionary notes this week.

“First, we still need seed treatments on these late plantings. I’ve seen some stand failures where people recently planted or replanted without a seed treatment. They said they thought it was warm enough that they could get by without it. But then they got rain, so they’re coming back one more time.

“The ‘full meal deal’ seed treatment only costs \$1.50 to \$2 an acre. That’s mighty cheap insurance, considering the cost of the seed and all the time and money you’ve got to put into replanting, plus the potential yield loss due to planting later.

“Second, we’ve got to be careful with these burndown and over-the-top herbicides in light of problems this season with drift. There have been more complaints this year than in the last 2 years put together.

“A majority of the complaints were north of U.S. 82 where all the rain delayed field work and spraying, and then people had their backs to the wall and had to treat. We’re past the point that this will be a problem this year, but we sure can’t afford to have another season like this.”