

# SoyFax: Midsouth

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Here is this week's issue of *SoyFax*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of Regiment, Select and Cobra herbicides.

-- Owen Taylor, Editor

## OVERVIEW

Too much rain or not enough -- that's the main story. South Louisiana continues to suffer. Unless rain systems today brought relief, parts of the south Delta remain dry, as well. River flooding is taking out some early fields in the upper Midsouth, and Mississippi River crests could wash out crops along stretches of the river valley.

More rain was falling across a wide part of the region today. Planting is running behind, replanting decisions are looming, and weed pressure is building where treatments haven't been made. In south Louisiana, planting has been on hold for a couple of weeks, and some early fields have been plowed under.

The following reports were made Tuesday and Wednesday.

## CROP REPORTS

**David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist:** "We haven't put any more soybeans in the ground since last week due to poor moisture. Parts of the state got a soaking rain, mainly north of Alexandria in places that already had ample moisture. Conditions in the southern state remain very dry. Some areas are going 30-40 days without rain, and soybeans haven't been planted there yet.

"I'm seeing a lot of guys irrigate corn where they can. The crop still looks okay, but it won't be a bumper yield. We had too much stress due to cool conditions earlier. This won't be a disaster, by any means, but no records, either. Fortunately, much of our corn is grown in northeast Louisiana where more rain has fallen.

"We do have some drought stress in corn in areas that missed rain. Fields in Pointe Coupee and St.

Landry have been stressed 10-14 days. It's not real bad yet, and one positive thing is that the wind has calmed down from 25-30 mph speeds that really dried things out.

"One concern is that we're getting close to the end of the recommended planting period for grain sorghum. Late planted sorghum has been very susceptible to borer damage. We may see a lot of it planted after the next rain event in areas that have been dry, and that could set us up for pressure as the generations build through the season. The last recommended day is May 15, tomorrow."

**Angela Thompson, Tennessee Extension Soybean Specialist:** "The latest estimate is that 2% of our soybean crop is planted. So far, we've lost some of it in flooded river bottoms, mainly in Middle Tennessee. There's flooding along the Hatchie and Forked Deer Rivers. Most of what's been lost in West Tennessee has been corn and cotton. Some folks are planting for the first time or replanting, but the main

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focus probably is on replanting cotton.

"In corn, we're hearing about sugarcane beetles in Lauderdale County, where they were bad last year, but also in Shelby and Fayette Counties. Some growers are going over the top with high rates of pyrethroids. It's not a complete cure, though. We're looking at seed treatments as one possible preventive in the future."

**Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist:** "We're finding a few armyworms in wheat. It's not widespread, just pockets here and there, but we're seeing populations as high as 15 per square foot. Our threshold has changed enough that we're not worrying too much about them right now. It's always been 6 per square foot, but recent research indicates that 100% defoliation didn't reduce yields."

"The recommendation now is to treat only when head cutting occurs. We've measured populations at 60-80 per square foot with no yield loss as long as heads remained intact."

**Cecil Parker, AgriServices, Ltd., Vidalia, La.:** "The southern half of Concordia Parish remains dry. Very few soybeans have been planted there. One guy disked up some MG IVs that were 7 weeks old and only 4" tall and too far gone to do any good. In the northern end, 60% of the soybeans probably have been planted, and we still have some cotton to plant there."

"Corn on our sandier ground in the southern parish has held up well where it's close to the levee and has moisture percolating up from the water table. But on mixed ground, the dry weather has taken a toll. Some growers have already destroyed stands. Every week we're finding more and more sugarcane borers in corn. It's not enough yet to concern us, but enough that we're

watching it closely. After the damage sustained last year, people are paranoid about their corn and milo getting eaten up this year."

Robert Wells, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Monticello, Ark.: "A little acreage in MG IVs has been planted, although a bit late now. Some early Vs were planted in the last week. They're just starting to pop up now. We've got one area that's missed rain lately, but we've had enough moisture everywhere to at least get most fields up to a stand."

**Tucker Miller, Ind. Consultant, Drew, Miss.:** "Soybeans look pretty good where they didn't go under water. We applied Roundup early on a lot of fields, and we're trying to get more out now. Other than scattered beanleaf beetles, we're not seeing insects."

"Corn borer moth traps went up in the last few days. In the southern part of our area in Sunflower County we saw numbers jump from 2-3 to 30-40 in a few days. We're finding a few Southwest corn borer larvae. Right now, it's less than 10%. But farther north in Quitman County we checked traps today (Tuesday) and didn't have any moths, and we didn't find any larvae."

**Ross Wood, Manager and Certified Crop Advisor, Almyra Farmers, Almyra, Ark.:** "Soybean planting has barely started. We've got maybe 1,000 acres in the ground. We've had all this rain, very heavy at times, and people are scared to plant them and then get pounded again. We're waiting for the current system to pass by and then try to plant some more."

**Rusty Elston, Elston Crop Management, Cheneyville, La.:** "We had one really odd situation where we had to spray corn earworms in soybeans. It's been 15-20 years since I've seen them this early

in soybeans at a treatable level. One other oddball thing — where we planted milo notill, and especially where we burned down clover, we've had to treat some stinkbugs this past week."

**Wendell Minson, Bootheel Crop Consultants, Dexter, Mo.:** "Wet conditions really delayed bean planting. Most guys would have started May 1, but we're just now getting to the first soybean fields. Corn is up to a good start. We're putting fertilizer to it and plowing the last time. It's 12-15" tall. After the fertilizer and all the rain lately, it will be waist-high in 2 weeks."

**Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist:** "We've got a mixed bag. It keeps raining where it's been raining, but places in the south Delta haven't had rain in a month. Hopefully, the rain today (Wednesday) will make it to these drier areas."

"Crop progress is pretty decent, all things considered. But we've got saturated fields and flooding. In the Delta, 8-13" of rain is more than a lot of these flatter fields can handle. Rivers are backing up in places, and it's still raining. So far, we haven't lost a large part of the crop to flooding, but we will if it keeps raining."

"Unfortunately, all the buildup of water in north Mississippi is fixing to go to the south Delta where they haven't had much rain, but they still might flood from it. It's a double whammy."

"People are spraying or wishing they could spray. They'll either have to wait for it to dry up or call in the airplane. We're going to have some woolly fields. A preemergence may have bought us some relief on some fields. Burning down early, though, remains the best approach. We'll also be making replanting decisions."