

SoyFax: Midsouth

Owen Taylor, Editor

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Here is our first issue of *SoyFax: Midsouth* for 2003. Thanks to the Midsouth staff of Valent U.S.A. Corporation for sponsoring our early season issues.

We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Owen Taylor, Editor

owen@agfax.com 601-992-9488

OVERVIEW

Storms that started over the weekend have brought rain, tornadoes and damaging winds to the northern half of the Midsouth. Several center pivots rolled over in northeast Arkansas, and rainfall accumulations have run up to 8" in the upper Delta and West Tennessee.

But in southern parts of the Midsouth, rainfall has failed to develop to much extent. Although some storms brewed up in the south Delta last night, drier conditions still prevail south of the Arkansas-Louisiana line and below U.S. 82 in Missis-

sippi.

Planting progress has been delayed, either by too much rain or too little. But 70% of the crop has been planted in some areas. Also, at least some acreage intended for soybeans will shift to rice. Millers and exporters began boosting contract prices in April. Our *RiceFax* contacts are reporting gains in rice acreage, though it's hard to put an estimate on how much swing will take place.

The following reports were made Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

CROP REPORTS

Reynold Minsky, Minsky Consulting Service, Lake Providence, La.: "Soybeans are coming up pretty well, but I've seen rhizoctonia in a couple of areas in fields.

"Corn looks good, but it needs rain awfully bad. Some folks are beginning to irrigate. We're seeing some European corn borers and bollworms, but we're waiting for the second generation. Some of the late-planted corn has billbugs. We've

also got a lot of corn that is falling over, mainly because soil around the brace roots was washed away by heavy rains last month, and then the wind blew it down."

Mike Burchfield, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Cleveland, Miss.: "Our soybeans are in pretty good shape. Based on what growers are saying, soybean acreage may be off a little due to the way buyers have run up rice prices recently. We probably have 75-80% of our bean crop planted now in this area."

Charles Denver, Denver Crop Consulting, Watson, Ark.: "The early season soybeans look good and are growing well except in areas that have missed rainfall in the last several weeks. Some people are cleaning up fields now. By and large, corn looks good. A few fields are still being planted, although it's awful late for that."

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.: "A huge percentage of our soybeans have been planted, and there's a bigger share in

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VALOR™ Buys You Time When Weeds Grow Fast

With recent rainfall in parts of the Delta, weeds are moving fast. Making *Valor* part of your soybean burndown program gives you more flexibility. It enhances burndown activity and provides important residual control. You often can wait several more days to make that first postemergence treatment in Roundup Ready® beans. And in many cases a burndown tank mix with *Valor* eliminates a second postemergence application altogether by holding weeds in check until beans canopy.

MG IVs than we've had in a while. With the rains, the crop looks fantastic, and a large part of it is up to a beautiful stand. No significant replanting has been necessary.

"The downside to this wonderful weather is that the weeds have come up pretty aggressively, and we've got some battles ahead of us in all the crops. We've used a lot of Valor in both cotton and soybeans. We looked at Roundup Ready cotton this week, and the only fields we won't have to treat right now are the ones where we used Valor. They're clean."

Claude Bonner, Ind. Consultant, Cotton Specialists of Ark, Inc., N. Little Rock, Ark.: "The corn is beginning to do pretty well. It's growing rapidly. Most of it has had herbicide and nitrogen applications. We've found a little of what may be corn borer activity in the whorl, but it's difficult to see much at this point that would be a problem."

Trent LaMastus, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: "Dry weather in the south Delta is aggravating our pest situation in corn. We had to treat a couple of fields, so far, for chinch bugs and may have to spray some additional fields for immatures. If the corn will ever start growing it would fix the problem. But we haven't had rain in 10 days. Most every field has at least 15% bollworm/corn earworm populations. So far, soybeans look good."

David Skinner, Ind. Consultant, Starkville, Miss.: "Corn looks good in the hills. Some is knee high,

and we're off to a strong start. I'm mainly scouting for corn borers right now. I ran traps in two counties last Friday and found a total of six moths."

Michael Boyd, Extension Entomology Specialist, Portageville, Mo.: "Corn looks pretty good. If we can get a little more sunshine it will really start taking off. We didn't seem to have as much early aphid pressure as they did south of us in Arkansas. We've had some light infestations of armyworms and cutworms, but very little has required treatments."

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: "We're about 70% planted and off to an excellent start. There's been concern, I know, about how viable some of these plantings will be in drier conditions, especially south of U.S. 82 where it hasn't rained much. Part of that area got rain Tuesday night, and seed have been in the ground for several weeks in some cases.

"I'm cautioning people not to jump the gun on replanting. Conditions this time of the year are different than in June, and with cooler weather soybean seed will wait longer for a rain. A grower called today (Wednesday) from Vicksburg and said he's got beans coming up that were planted 27 days ago.

"The same caution about replanting applies to where we got intense rains this month. Again, with cooler temperatures those small plants aren't going to scald in April or early

May like they would in the summer.

"Overall, I don't think we're in for a lot of replanting. Where growers worked up ground before all this rain it could be a week or more before they get in the field again. Don't panic. We're still in May and still have time to make a good crop.

"We're seeing some minor insect problems. Beanleaf beetles are around in pockets. If you have them and want to avoid building a resident population this year, consider adding an insecticide with your herbicide treatment. We've treated a couple of notill fields for grasshoppers where we had a late burndown or excessive residue. But we probably won't see the intense pressure we've had in the last couple of years. Field work to take out ruts from last fall's soggy harvest has disrupted populations in many areas, I suspect."

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: "Some early MG IVs are up and look good, but they need rain. It's still dry across a wide part of the state, especially in south Louisiana.

"A few people are planting in the dust, but tractors are mostly idle where it's really dry. We haven't passed the optimum planting period for some varieties and aren't even into that period with certain groups.

"Corn planting is finished and sorghum planting is just about completed. We're still assessing the problems with corn falling over due to the intense rains last month. The rain exposed roots and, between strong winds and the drying effect on the roots, the plants came down.

"In some fields we're estimating one out of 15 plants was lost, but in extreme cases it may be three out of every four plants. We've got guys waiting for insurance adjustments and others planting late corn."

Also this week...

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Soybean Specialist, provided an additional advisory for this week. You can download it as a PDF file at:

<http://www.agfax.com/updates/ms/blaine5-7fax.pdf>

David Lanclos, Louisiana Soybean Specialist, provided an additional feed grains advisory for this week. You can download it as a PDF file at:

<http://www.agfax.com/updates/la/lanclos5-7fax.pdf>