

SoyFax: Midsouth

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JUNE 2, 2004

Here is this week's *SoyFax*, sponsored by the Midsouth staff of Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of **Quadris®** fungicide.

OVERVIEW

Rain and wind continue to delay herbicide applications. Insects are being treated on a few more fronts. Some fungicide applications have cranked up. These reports were made Monday afternoon through early Wednesday.

CROP REPORTS

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "About 70% of the crop is planted. Many areas in NE Arkansas remain to be planted, and double-crop plantings were all but halted due this last bout of rain Thursday and Friday. Winds have hampered herbicide applications, plus many aerial applicators are backlogged with rice fertilizer work.

"I've seen some herbicide injury in early-planted fields that were sprayed 10-14 days ago. This

can be traced back to spraying glyphosate alone or in tank-mixtures when the crop was under stress, such as from standing water. However, warmer temperatures and extended sunshine have turned these fields around."

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: "A lot of people would like to finish Roundup applications, but these fronts keep stacking up and delaying treatments. The crop is not growing off as fast as we'd like. Two factors have held it back. We've had fields with heavy residue and also places where people delayed burndown. All that cover kept fields colder longer. Also, we only had about 10 days in May with the right combination of daytime and nighttime temperatures. When you throw in all the rain, it's obvious why plants stalled out.

"People who sprayed Roundup just prior to all the rain are seeing some yellowing, which is normal in that situation. Plants bounce back pretty quickly when soils dry up and better growing conditions return. Soybeans can

start metabolizing glyphosate and begin looking normal again.

"There's a smorgasbord of insects around. We've made some stinkbug treatments in early beans, and beanleaf beetles have been sprayed, too. We're also seeing plantbugs in beans. As soon as the rain stops and fields dry up we need to start thinking about irrigating early beans. They're very much into the reproductive phase. To maintain goals for early harvest, we can't let them stress.

"There's a lot of interest in fungicides on early beans. Some farmers have started spraying. A few people may be going a little early, but they're looking at August delivery and higher prices, so they don't want to leave anything to chance.

"Generally, we haven't seen consistent responses with fungicides on early planted MG IVs. On average, fungicides at least pay for themselves. In some years, though, Quadris will give you a big boost. With the weather we've had, maybe this is one of those years.

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Quadris® fungicide is the right choice for growers striving to improve both the quality and yield of their soybean crop by protecting it from profit-robbing diseases. This low-use rate fungicide provides broad-spectrum preventative and systemic activity against many troublesome diseases including aerial web blight, leaf spot and stem blight.

Turn to Syngenta Crop Protection for this and other innovative solutions, backed by one of the most knowledgeable soybean teams in the industry.

The Syngenta logo features the word "syngenta" in a lowercase, blue, sans-serif font. A green leaf icon is positioned above the letter 'n'.

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SoyFax: Midsouth is published by Looking South Communications, 142 Westlake Drive, Brandon, Miss. 39047. Phone: 888-327-6329, Fax: 601-992-3503. E-mail: owen@agfax.com. Editor: Owen Taylor. It is transmitted via fax or e-mail each week during the soybean production season. Agfax: Midsouth Soybean is free to growers, consultants, dealers and other qualifying soybean industry workers. ©MMIII Looking South Communications

"In some early verification fields with MG IVs we'll be looking at 3 oz of Quadris and 2 oz of Dimilin per acre. We will make this same treatment on all of our irrigated MG V verification fields, but we may up the rate. Dimilin could be somewhat questionable, but it's cheap. We saw a response last year with frog-eye leafspot. Whether that was a fluke is something we're trying to determine. Overall, our fungicide emphasis will be more on late treatments, whether it's with Quadris, Topsin-M or a generic equivalent of Topsin-M.

"Topsin-M fits with late-season cercospora. Cercospora was worse last year on pods than on foliage, but it also caused a good deal of early leaf loss, which may be why it was so noticeable on pods. With cercospora, you lose leaves and photosynthetic capacity before beans can fully mature, and that leads to green beans and dockage. Remember: late-season fungicide applications affect quality. They don't improve yields."

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: "Rain is the big story this week. We have ample moisture in the north. For the most part, we're not inundated in the south where everyone is replanting. A lot of beans replanted in the last 7-10 days needed moisture.

"With the hot, humid weather and occasional showers, we've got isolated reports of aerial blight. A large portion of our crop is at R2 to R3, and at that stage we can justify some fungicide applications. Last year we had hot, dry conditions, and cercospora was the main disease. It's still premature to say which will be worse – aerial blight or cercospora – but we need to keep disease potential in mind. We've got a lot of data and generally find that if you use Quadris or other fungicides there's a 4-7

bu/acre yield gain in Louisiana. If you can justify going with 2 fungicides, then a combination of Quadris and Topsin-M should be considered.

"We're starting to see a little insect activity but nothing, so far, that warrants spraying."

Angela Thompson, Tennessee Extension Soybean Specialist: "We've planted quite a bit in the last 2 weeks and have finished 60-70% of the crop. Last week it was dry, and folks worried about whether things would come up. Rain over the weekend was just what we needed."

Tucker Miller, Ind. Consultant, Drew, Miss.: "We're trying to get some of our MG IVs laid by with the second shot of Roundup and run the middles to set them up for irrigation. As soon as it dries up again we'll be hitting that. Stinkbugs have been relatively low. We're finding them in a few spots and will be rechecking. We sprayed a few fields of corn last week for southwestern corn borers, and there were low numbers of stinkbugs in that. Corn borer trap counts have gone down, so we probably have the first generation behind us."

Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: "I'm standing in some MG IV soybeans that are 12-14" tall. They're blooming and setting pods, and the grower is concerned about them being this short going into the reproductive stage. They were planted in mid-April on 40" rows, and they would have had some decent size if it hadn't been for all the rain. I have seen MG IVs of fairly short stature make pretty good yields, and these beans have a beautiful color."

Charles Denver, Denver

Crop Consulting, Watson, Ark.: "Our early soybeans look good. Not much is going on in the beans. We've gotten 3.8" of rain since Friday. Wind accompanied the rain, and a lot of corn was laid over. Younger corn seemed more affected than the tasseling corn. Until the rain moved through, folks had been watering corn."

David Hydrick, Hydrick's Crop Consulting, Inc., Jonesboro, Ark.: "We're trying to spray Roundup and also wrap up replanting in some gumbo ground and low swags. If the wind would ever quit blowing we might be able to make progress. It's a big mess. In one area we've been waiting 2 weeks for an east wind so we wouldn't have material drifting into town.

"Drift has been a big problem this year. Out of 10 milo fields, we only kept 2 after we saw the extent of drift damage.

"European corn borers are a problem in corn, and we're even finding some in Bt corn. We're finding a lot more European corn borers in the Bt fields than we are the southwestern corn borers. So far, we've only treated a couple of fields, but we have a lot of corn borers right now and are watching them closely."

Grover Shannon, University of Missouri Soybean Breeder, Portageville, Mo.: "We got 1-2" of rain across the area, and it came just as a few people were rolling out flexible pipe to irrigate corn. Most growers are about finished planting full-season beans. Some wheat harvest could start this weekend, which would be about 10 days ahead of normal. That's great for doublecrop soybeans. Generally, we see a big drop in yield potential for anything planted after June 10."