

SoyFax: Midsouth

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Here is this week's *SoyFax*, sponsored by the Midsouth staff of **Syngenta Crop Protection**, maker of **Quadris**® fungicide. It is provided as a service to growers, consultants, dealers and industry.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Owen Taylor, Editor

OVERVIEW

Sunny skies and warmer temperatures fill the weather forecast for the next 7 days throughout much of our coverage area. A drying period is exactly what most people need.

Heavy rainfall over the last week has widely delayed field work, planting and spraying. Some south Louisiana parishes in May have received what amounts to a third of that area's average annual rainfall total. Field flooding has been common in south Louisiana as well as in parts of other states. Some locations in Mississippi measured 9" of rain over the last 7 days, and accumulations

of 3-6" aren't uncommon in other Midsouth locations.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "I've never fooled with MG III soybeans, but we've got some this year in Gin City, Ark. They started blooming between the third and fourth trifoliates. People had joked about how IIIs are blooming when they come out of the ground, and I see now what they mean.

"The MG IVs and Vs are up and going. On some of the cold, sandy ground they stayed stunted and yellow, and at the third and fourth trifoliates they lacked nodules. But with warmer weather, they're turning green, and nodules are forming.

"In corn we're finding a few earworms. We're also seeing a little common rust, which seems early."

Wendell Minson, Bootheel Crop Consultants, Dexter,

Mo.: "A bunch of guys decided to try for August beans. But, with all the rain and cold weather since planting, we've got skippy stands in places. Everyone really got into planting heavily last week, and some of those are up. But we got 2" of rain late last week, and it's raining right now (Monday afternoon). I'm afraid part of that will have to be replanted. Corn looks pretty good. We just got it plowed and fertilized. With warm, humid nights, it should take off fast now."

David Strohl, Aerial Applicator/Grower, Skarda Flying Service, Inc., Tollville, Ark.:

"We've had rain nearly every day or every other day for several weeks, plus cold weather at times. Just a few people have planted any soybeans. The total is hardly worth mentioning. I'll bet there haven't been 300 acres planted through this area."

Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.: "Quite a number of acres of MG IVs went

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in early where growers had moisture, and those aren't faring well where water backed into fields. Those beans were about 6" tall, and they're going to be cooked, I'm afraid. Most of what we grow are MG Vs, and almost none of those have been planted yet.

"We're not sure about the effect of all this rain on our wheat crop, which looked great before rain hit. Only a small part has been harvested. There's some sprouting in the head."

Brent Lassiter, ProAg Services, LLC, Newport, Ark.: "A lot of people planted beans early and wish now they hadn't. They're doing okay in well-drained soils, but they may suffer if it keeps raining and soils get waterlogged."

Robert Wells, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Monticello, Ark.: "Some of our earliest soybeans started blooming at the end of last week, and everything planted in the first 10 days of April is blooming now. So far, the only thing we have planted has been MG IV varieties."

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: "We've gotten a good bit of rain, although we haven't been as wet, overall, as our neighbors to the west. Amounts in the last week varied from 1" up to 9". The sun popped up today in places, and that's encouraging. Some fields went underwater, and we've still got land that's super saturated.

"As bad as that might sound, we needed this rain on a lot of acres. I would have loved to have seen drier early weather to force plants to develop a better root system. But we were about to start irrigating in places, and this rain will carry us to June 1. From that standpoint it helped a lot.

"Where soils are saturated, much of our crop is far enough along that it should be okay.

"We've got scattered pests – beanleaf beetles, grasshoppers and three-cornered alfalfa hoppers. We've also picked up a few green cloverworms and velvet-bean caterpillars in places, which probably is a fluke."

Angela Thompson, Tennessee Extension Soybean Specialist: "Parts of West Tennessee got 4-6" of rain last week, plus more rain Sunday and Monday in spots, and that's stalled soybean planting. We weren't even 25% along. Some beans that didn't get the heavy rain look fine. It wasn't a packing rain, so that helped.

"There will be some corn replanting in our river counties where there was flooding. Growers may plant soybeans if they didn't use atrazine. It's not as bad as 2003. We're talking about hundreds of acres this year instead of thousands"

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: "South Louisiana is in terrible shape. Rainfall amounts in the last week range from 9" up to 22" or more. Considering that 60" is about an average annual amount, that's up to a third of a year's worth of rain in the last week.

"A tremendous amount of acreage down there was planted before all the rain came, and fields planted closest to when the rain started are going to be questionable. Some fields have been under water almost a week, and there essentially won't be a stand there when the water goes down.

"In north Louisiana, the rainfall has been a good deal less, so far. There were places where equipment was actually stirring up dust early this week.

"But where it rained the most,

we'll need 7-10 days of pure sunshine to get the ground in shape again and start replanting some of these beans. Nobody wants to replant, but we're still within our optimal planting window, so that's at least going in our favor."

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "Much of the state has received significant rain in the past week. Totals range from 2.3" in Jonesboro, 3.4" in Marianna, 3.9" in Stuttgart, and over 4" in Eudora. With ditches already full, many areas are experiencing localized flooding. A few days of hot dry weather would help many growers finish planting the remainder of soybeans.

"We still may see a few areas needing to replant after this latest bout of weather. Producers who have used some sort of bedded system (traditional hippers or roller-bedder systems) seem to be doing better than areas that are flat planted. The wet and somewhat warmer conditions have also increased weed emergence in many fields. Quite a bit of glyphosate will be sprayed in the next few weeks.

"I had the opportunity to work in Texas for a few years, and that first spring we experienced weather like we've had in Arkansas lately. Large rainfall amounts in late April and early May led to field flooding and delays in planting. Just when it would start to dry out, we would get another rain. I made the mistake in a newspaper interview of saying, 'I just wish it would stop raining so we could get our crop planted'.

"Well it stopped raining on May 15 and didn't rain again until early September! Needless to say, I will not be quoted as saying 'I wish it would stop raining...' ever again."