

SoyFax: Midsouth

Owen Taylor, Editor (owen@agfax.com, 888-327-6329)

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Here is this week's *SoyFax*, sponsored by the Midsouth field staff of **Syngenta Crop Protection**.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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owen@agfax.com 888-327-6329

OVERVIEW

Rain fell Tuesday evening across parts of our coverage area. Central and south Arkansas received rain. So did extreme north-east Louisiana, Mississippi's South Delta river counties and parts of central Mississippi. We haven't received reports yet on totals.

The entire region needs rain. As one Extension worker noted this morning, it will take "a pretty good soaker" to offset weeks of dry conditions in the worst locations.

More fields are being irrigated, either to bring up seed or to maintain stands. Polypipe sales should be strong through the rest of the month if more rain fails to develop.

Beanleaf beetles continue to build in places.

We're also hearing more about

thrips in soybeans. Entomologists say it normally doesn't pay to spray thrips in beans, and there don't appear to be any Extension recommendations covering what might be an abnormal situation like some of those being reported.

A number of our contacts over the last 2 weeks have said they were dealing with enough pressure that they were at least considering a treatment.

In these cases, thrips were jumping on small plants that had stalled out in the dry weather. Decisions are complicated by the fact that some effective materials aren't specifically labeled for thrips in soybeans.

These reports were made Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

CROP REPORTS

Trent LaMastus, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: "Some of our oldest soybeans started blooming 3.5 weeks ago and are beginning to put on a few pods. But we've also got beans that are only 7-10 days old, so the crop is spread out. Insects are hard to find in beans right now.

There are fewer beanleaf beetles or grasshoppers than I can remember for this point in the season."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "We're seeing higher than normal beanleaf beetle populations, particularly in soybeans planted in mid April and through that early period. Defoliation has been running 10-15% in places. We're also seeing thrips jumping on small soybean plants in places. Generally, we don't treat thrips in soybeans because we feel like they can outrun thrips. But if terminals are being blackened and thrips have started killing plants, then you'll have to do something.

"We've also had cases around Elaine where white grubs have fed on soybean roots and caused plants to die. There are no real treatment options since the grubs are underground."

Robert Wells, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Monticello, Ark.: "The soybeans I'm checking are still in pretty good shape. Except

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There are a lot of confusing recommendations on how to control soybean rust, but effectively managing rust requires 2 modes of action, both a triazole and a strobilurin.

Quadris® + Tilt® delivers this two-way control to cure early stages of rust infestation that may be present in your field, plus prevent rust from further infecting your crop.

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for a couple of fields planted last week, everything went in early. There's nothing to spray. I've been watching some three-corner alfalfa hoppers. I've found beanleaf beetles near Dumas. We haven't sprayed, but numbers are increasing. I don't remember seeing this many so early in the season."

Hugh Whitby, KC Consulting, Wynne, Ark.: "We're just getting a lot of soybeans planted. We have a few fields of early beans that have been up for 2-3 weeks. We haven't sprayed many fields yet. It's too dry to spray them in some spots. A few pivots are running, and every day I see 1-2 more that have started. There was a big chance of rain on Monday, and I think I counted 6 drops."

Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: "It's dry. We're sending out polypipe today to water 5-leaf cotton, and soybeans with just 3 true leaves are being watered, too. We planted some soybeans 3 inches deep that just came up, and they need to be irrigated."

"People are asking for suggestions on watering small soybeans. From what we've seen, the best approach is to water fast, not more than 12 to 24 hours per set. Pretty much everything has been planted, but several people have beans waiting in the dirt for rain."

Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: "Soybeans are hurting as a result of dry weather. Some MG IVs have been blooming a couple of weeks, but they're terribly stressed. We don't have vegetative growth like we need and may not get it since the plants are so far along in the reproductive stage."

David Lanclos, Louisiana

Extension Soybean Specialist: "We don't just need a rain, we need a pretty good soaker. Most of the state remains dry. It's estimated that we have 250,000 acres of soybeans left to plant, perhaps more if it would rain right away. About half that is probably beans anticipated behind wheat, but the remaining land is ready to plant once there's adequate moisture."

"How much of that is finally planted remains to be seen. The acreage will drop some every day that we go now without meaningful rainfall. Growers in north Louisiana get nervous about planting into June, so that area's final acreage could be the most affected by continued dryness. Growers in south Louisiana will simply shift to mid MG Vs and into the MG VI range."

"Red shouldered stinkbugs are being reported, generally south of Alexandria. I'm hearing about numbers that generally are below threshold. At least this season we have a label for Orthene. Some beanleaf beetles are out there. Thrips are a troublesome pest in places. Normally, they're not a problem on soybeans, but they're looking for anything right now with some juice they can extract."

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "Right now a slow soaking statewide rain would be worth millions of dollars. About 75% of our expected 2.3 million soybean acres have been planted, but just over a million acres have actually emerged. Most of the soybeans planted in the last 10 days are just sitting in dry soil."

"The big question today is, 'Should I plant first and irrigate the beans up or irrigate first and plant later?' This is strictly a production system and field-specific question. If flood or border irrigation is the only method available,

irrigating first is probably the safest method. With the popularity of the 'bedder-roller' system, planting first and then furrow irrigation would be another option."

"However, be careful to consider the bed width. Wider beds - usually wider than 48 inches - will require more water or longer irrigation times in order for water to wick completely across the bed. Otherwise, uneven emergence will result. For fields with pivots, planting first is definitely an option."

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist:

"We need a good, general rain. The crop as a whole isn't hurting. One possible thing we could see is a somewhat shorter crop, height-wise. That may not affect yields much. With these varieties we've seen enough examples of good yields with short plants. But on wider rows a smaller plant may not do as well shading out weeds."

"If we got a good rain I think we'd be surprised how quickly a lot of these plants would jump. There's still plenty of horsepower under them."

"People are watering a lot of beans - not for yield but for growth. We're trying to keep the crop growing, and folks are watering earlier than they ever have."

"As of today (Wednesday) there is no rust reported in the Midsouth. Our strong recommendation continues to be to wait until there's a reason to spray. Letting this crop achieve full vegetative growth may allow us to go with a one-application program if we do have to spray. If the plant is only 10 inches tall and if you spray it today, and then it doubles in size in the next 3 weeks, that top 10 inches won't be protected. Why jump the gun?"