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SoyFax: Midsouth

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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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OVERVIEW

Parts of the Midsouth remain desperately dry. Showers over the last week helped ease crop stress in places, but much of the upper Midsouth is still running a huge deficit. Central and NE Arkansas and Mississippi's north Delta remain mostly dry. So are pockets in west Arkansas and Louisiana. Many fields have received little or no rain in the last 2 months. Surface water stocks needed for summer irrigation in some areas have not been replenished.

One of our readers in Woodruff County, Ark., said today that it's so dry in his area that "dust devils" are springing up on windy afternoons.

WEB RESOURCES

A reminder: we continue to post

Extension rice newsletters and bulletins from throughout the Rice Belt on our web site, agfax.com. Check out the **Worth Downloading** section in the middle column of our home page for Extension reports from all the Midsouth states. We also post the closing Dow Jones rice review and the daily grain commentary from Doane.

CROP REPORTS

Joe Townsend, Ind. Consultant, Coahoma, Miss.: "We've treated some field borders for stinkbugs. So far, populations of beanleaf beetles and three-cornered alfalfaoppers are much less than a year ago.

"We've gotten rain in spots over the last week, but much of our area remains awfully dry. Pivots have run over some soybeans, but most growers have not started rolling out polypipe in a serious way, yet. The people who appear to be keeping up with soybean irrigation are the rice farmers. They're set up to irrigate, and they're running water right now.

"Some of the late-planted MG IVs and MG Vs are not showing real stress yet. Some are just at R1, if that far along. The earlier beans that

haven't been irrigated yet are a different story. They're blooming out the top, and there's not much space between the top and the ground."

Herbert Jones Jr., Ind. Consultant, Leland, Miss.: "We anticipate watering the soybeans that are podding up. We might start toward the end of this week or early next week if it doesn't rain before then. If we continue having moderate temperatures at night it should be alright to hold off a few more days. We got six tenths to 2 inches of rain about 2 weeks ago. We're picking up a little more disease, but nothing that warrants treatment. Overall, the crop is progressing real well."

Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.: "We're trying to determine what caused a certain amount of plants to die off in the last couple of weeks. Alan Blaine (Extension soybean specialist) said that it's more than likely due to an accumulation of stress from all the poor conditions we've had. There was no real rhyme or reason to it. It didn't

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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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www.soybeanrust.com



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rain that much, maybe 4-6 tenths in some cases. We would have expected this to happen on the low end of fields, but some of it was at the top of fields. It's not a lot of acres, but there are spots the size of a pickup. A lot of plants appear to be greening up again, although it's hard to say at this point what they could make."

Gary Wolfe, La-Ark Agricultural Consulting, Ida, La.: "We haven't had significant rain since April 10. One man who keeps a daily record said at his location it's only rained 65 hundredths in that time. Beans are suffering. A lot of our dryland corn is pretty much gone. A bunch of it is yellow two-thirds the way up the stalk. Without soil moisture there wasn't enough nitrogen uptake."

Mike Edwards, Edwards Entomological Services, Water Valley, Miss.: "Rain over the last 10 days really helped the beans. We haven't made any treatments, yet. In terms of pest, we're finding a little bit of everything but not enough altogether to treat. Our early beans are at R1 to R3, while the later ones are V4 to V5."

Brent Lassiter, ProAg Services, LLC, Newport, Ark.: "Less than half the county has received good rains lately. The rest remains really dry. In some heavier ground we got just enough rain to sprout beans and ruin them. Good rains fell in other places, and those emerged okay. Some people are flushing to plant soybeans. We've still got beans sitting in dry ground, waiting for rain, and a lot of fields have been worked up and smoothed off, but it's too dry to plant."

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist: "On Monday we went all the way from Clarksdale to Redwood as part of our soybean survey, and insects are pretty light in the Delta. All the usual pests

seem to be around, but we're just not seeing the numbers. Three-cornered alfalfa hopper numbers are increasing in the hills. Some smooth-leaf varieties have been sprayed for potato leaf hoppers."

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.: "We're finding quite a few beanleaf beetles. We started picking up a few loopers yesterday (Monday). Stinkbugs are more than plentiful in soybeans right now. They're being treated in a lot of fields and need to be in some others. There's a good mix of browns and greens. As you move south the red shouldered stinkbug is turning up in significant numbers."

Jay Coker, Consultant/Grower, DeWitt, Ark.: "People have started planting earlier and earlier on the prairie, and a lot of beans that normally would be taking advantage of early rainfall need water now. It continues to be dry across the area with the exception of isolated spots that caught showers. A lot of irrigation has started on soybeans. With diesel at \$2 a gallon, that's expensive. I'm not sure what people are going to do with the doublecrop beans. There may be enough moisture to sprout them, but I'm not sure that there's enough moisture in many fields to get them up."

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: "We've been inundated with calls this week about red shouldered stinkbugs. People are looking for answers, for alternatives and for future research. One thing we can tell them right now is that they have to get away from herbicide spraying techniques. We're going to have to get back to flat-fan or hollow-cone nozzles, increase the gallons per acre of carrier and the pressure. We're not getting enough material down in the canopy with the big droplet size these air-induction

nozzles produce.

"The earliest sprayings we've heard about this year for the insect started 2 weeks ago. It's turning up mainly in south Louisiana but also some in the central part of the state. A pound of Orthene active still seems to be the main choice. We feel that you can increase control with the sprayer set up for insecticides.

"There remain some dry areas, but for the most part we're not suffering for moisture. Growers continue to plant beans. We did a big run through south Louisiana yesterday (Tuesday). All the vacant acres had been planted in the last 7 days. Most growers have switched to an MG V or MG VI."

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "Although much of the state has received rain over the past week, we are still desperately dry in most areas. Many fields planted in the past 4-6 weeks are basically just sitting there. There's little to no vegetative growth, and that will be a problem for the remainder of the season.

"This could mean additional herbicide applications due to lack of canopy. Areas south of the Arkansas River still look better than most areas of central and northeast Arkansas. Only 45% of our crop is rated good to excellent.

"Many folks have called about chloride or salt damage and potassium deficiency. This is due to the prolonged, dry periods. We're also getting calls about Permit drift. Many of these acres will likely be replanted.

"Planting date studies last year indicated MG IV and MG V beans planted on June 1 still had the potential of 40-50 bushels, but when planting was delayed to July 1, yields decreased to 15-25 bushels. Can we still make a decent crop with the stand we have or will re-planting be more economical? It is a tough call."