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Rice Update
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USDA at the first of week reported Mississippi was 58% planted and 30% emerged, which is slightly behind the five year average. Rainfall in some areas last weekend was in excess of 4 inches. Due to the excessive rainfall, field work and planting has been very minimal through the week. Since very little planting has occurred this week, I would estimate that we would be about 20% behind the five year average on Monday.

Emergence over the last week has been slow due to the cool temperatures at the first of this week. With high winds and warm temperatures at the end of this week, the ground has dried quickly (especially on the lighter texture soils). As result, some rice will need to be flushed if no rainfall is received either today or tomorrow since rice emergence will be difficult due to a hard crust on top of the soil.

As mentioned, rice emergence has been less than ideal so far. Some rice stands look great and some that are not as good as we would like them to be. Soil moisture conditions at planting, seeding depth, and planting date are the major factors in determining if the rice stand is fully emerged yet or not. In most areas the rain was welcome last weekend; however, maybe not to the extent that it was received.

Preemergence herbicides so far have been effective. If drier conditions prevail in the upcoming week, grass could potentially break through and become a problem. If rainfall is received, it will help extend the residual control of the preemergence herbicide.

On fields that have not had a preemergence herbicide, grass is beginning to emerge before the rice is fully emerged. If no rice has emerged in the field, glyphosate is a good cheap option. However, if the rice has started to emerge, other options have to be explored. In Clearfield rice, I would not hesitate to go ahead and make a Newpath application, especially under ideal moisture conditions. In a conventional system, control options would depend on what grasses are present, moisture situation, and weather conditions. If no rainfall is received by tomorrow and cooler conditions prevail, these situations will become difficult to control grasses.

As always, be proactive than reactive when it comes to grass control. You can never kill grass too early. If you have small grass and good soil moisture conditions that is the most opportune time to kill it. If the weather warms up, it will not take but a few days for the grass to put another leaf on it. By this time, the soil moisture conditions will be less than optimal. The end result will be big grass that is drought stressed, which makes it harder to control and more expensive. Be vigilant because things can change overnight.

With the late increasing interest in growing rice this season, Cocodrie rice seed is in high demand. With this demand, I have been getting a few calls on how low of a seeding rate can I plant Cocodrie. Under ideal conditions (adequate moisture for germination, > 60 F soil temperature, and excellent seedbed), 30 seed/ft² would be sufficient. This would put your seeding rate at approximately 70 lb/A. If planting in less than ideal conditions, the standard 40 seed/ft² (90 lb/A) will probably be necessary to achieve an adequate stand.

If you want to be added to my direct emailing list, email me at nathanb@ext.msstate.edu. Also, feel free to contact me at 662-822-7359.