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Rice Update
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USDA at the first of week reported Mississippi was 72% planted and 54% emerged. With very little planting this week, there will only be a slight increase the percent planted acres. We are at least 20% behind in planted acres when comparing to last year at this time. Rice growth and development has been very slow so far through the growing season. The weather forecast for the next 10 days is not very promising for plant growth and development. There are only 3 days out of 10 that are predicted to be above 80 F. With the cooler temperatures, DD50 accumulations have been lower as well.

Some of the earliest planted rice is now at 2 to 3 leaf stage. Rice that was planted in mid- to late-April is now coming up to a stand. Generally, rice will emerge in about 10 days when planted during this time period. So far some of the best looking fields have been planted to either CL 161 or CL 171-AR. In the trials this year and in years past, CL 161 and CL 171-AR have shown the best seedling vigor.

Rice stands this year would rate acceptable to excellent. Overall, rice stands are not as good as they have been in the last couple of years. However, most stands are good enough to achieve maximum yields. Questions this week have revolved around how many plants per ft² do I need to make good yields. Ideally we would like to have at least 15 to 20 plants/ft² (9.5 to 12.5 per linear foot on a 7.5" row spacing and 12.5 to 16.5 on 10" row spacing). Rice stands that are around 10 plants/ft² can make good yields if they are properly managed.

Using Command as preemergence herbicide this year has been the bell ringer. Since we have been getting rain about every 4 days, Command has worked extremely well. Fields that did not receive Command have been the more difficult ones. The weather lately has not been ideal for postemergence applications. Propanil does not work the best under these cooler conditions and there are very few other options to choose from. Since we have been in rainy period, I have been encouraging the use of preemergence herbicides such as Facet and Prowl.

Most of the first Newpath applications have gone out on the Clearfield rice. Do to the cooler weather, expect to see the Newpath activity to be slower. As a result it may take 7 to 10 days to see good weed control activity.

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.