RICE

2016 Season Off To A Good Start!

Mother Nature has been kind so far this year providing good planting windows to get our rice seeded during April, the month U of A researchers tell us generally results in our best yields. The last few days of warm weather and showers have sped up emergence and development of the crop. Take note when your fields have emerged to a full stand so you can enroll them in the DD50 program. The DD50 report is a one page summary of what to expect on your crop throughout the season. Growth stages, pesticide cut off dates, pest scouting windows, and fertilizer timing are just a few areas listed on the report. Call the Extension office to sign your fields up for the DD50 program. Better yet, enroll online at http://dd50.uaex.edu/ ***

Keep Weeds In Check Up to Flood Time

For rice planted in early April, pre-emergence herbicides are beginning to break. As grass weeds emerge, make sure to spray them while we have good moisture and they are small enough to control. Last year, Dr. Jason Norsworthy, U of A Weed Scientist, conducted a survey for barnyardgrass resistance to herbicides labeled for rice. For the 16 barnyardgrass samples screened from Greene County, 69% showed resistance to propanil, 19% showed resistance to Grasp, 25% showed resistance to Newpath, and 6% tested resistant to Clincher. All barnyardgrass samples checked from Greene County were still susceptible to Command, Roundup, Facet, and Ricestar. As you spray for emerged grass weeds, it may be a good option to include a residual grass herbicide to help keep fields clean up to flood time. Prowl, Bolero, Facet, and Londax are all options with each having some weeds they do better on while they providing poor control for other weeds.

A lot of Clearfield rice is grown in Greene County, especially on our zero grade acres. If you have been planting Clearfield rice for several years and not following the stewardship program recommended by BASF, then Newpath may no longer be providing the weed control it used to. In addition to the barnyardgrass screening just mentioned for resistance to Newpath (25% of Greene County samples), 70% of the red rice samples (14 of 20) sent in to Dr. Norsworthy for screening were resistant to Newpath. The take home message is you will need to rely on other grass herbicide chemistries or management (water seeding) to control barnyardgrass and red rice if your fields have developed resistance.

We look forward to Provisia rice and Rogue herbicide in 2017, as new tools to help with weed control in rice fields that have developed herbicide resistance. We plan to collect weed seed again for screening this fall, so call us if you have fields you suspect are developing resistance.***
SoyMap New Tool to Help with Maturity Group Selection

In soybean production, hundreds of varieties are available to plant. It can be a challenge to narrow down which varieties will provide the most economic return. In addition, soybeans have a wide planting window (April—June) which may favor some varieties over others, depending where in that window the farmer is planting.

According to Dr. Larry Purcell, Professor and Crop Physiologist for the U of A, SoyMap is a new computer program (Excel file) he and his associates developed and released this year. SoyMap can help producers (irrigated crops only) determine which maturity group of soybeans is most likely to do the best for them at various planting windows. SoyMap was developed based upon research findings from data (yield, flowering date, seed fill, maturity) collected from 8 locations in the Midsouth, using 4 planting dates, and 16 soybean cultivars from maturity groups (MG) 3 to 6. The program also incorporated 30 year historic weather data to develop a computer model that helps predict soybean yield (irrigated crops only) based upon planting date, soil texture, and maturity group of bean a farmer plans to plant.

SoyMap is pretty simple, only requiring the producer to enter their closest test location (latitude), soil texture, planting date, and what maturity groups they want to compare. For example, when the Marianna test site is selected, and a planting date of May 1-7 is picked for a silt loam soil, the late Group IV maturity group is predicted to offer the best yield potential over other maturity groups (Early IVs, Late Vs, etc.).

The program does allow additional farmer information on fuel costs, irrigation type, and other inputs that allow for an economic comparison of two different maturity groups for a given planting date. Go to this website to download the SoyMap program and help guide:

http://agribusiness.uark.edu/decision-support-software.php

On a different note, make sure to review the 2015 Soybean Update. According to Dr. Jeremy Ross, U of A Extension Soybean Specialist, it contains yield results, disease ratings, herbicide tolerance, herbicide tech trait, and other agronomic data for all varieties entered into the U of A performance trials.

The update is your objective source to see which varieties offer top yields. It is also very useful to sort out varieties with the disease resistance and trait package you want. For example, if you have a field with heavy pigweed pressure that also has root knot nematode and race 5 cyst nematode pressure, you would want to select a variety with resistance to both types of nematodes along with the Liberty Link trait so you could use that tool for pigweed management. You would also want to make sure you pick a variety that has at least a moderate level of tolerance to metribuzin since you would need to include it as a residual in your weed control program. Go to the this website to download the update:


One final thought on soybean variety selection. Remember that many varieties are sold under a few different brand names. Dr. Ross has prepared a cross reference table that you may find helpful. We hope it keeps you from planting the same variety packaged under different brand names. Here is the link:

Residual Herbicides a Must for Effective Weed Control

U of A Extension Weed Scientist, Dr. Bob Scott, stresses that pre-emergence herbicides are a must for good weed control in Arkansas soybeans. On many fields pigweed is our number one weed that can hammer yield if not properly controlled. It is a given pigweeds in most fields are resistant to glyphosate. Many fields also have pigweeds that are resistant to the yellow herbicides (Treflan, Prowl) and ALS herbicides (Classic, Firstrate, Scepter).

Once grower’s recognized Roundup would no longer work, they started relying on the next most effective herbicide chemistry (PPOs like Valor, Flexstar, Blazer) to manage pigweeds. Unfortunately, we are now seeing several fields where pigweeds have developed resistance to the PPO herbicides and they no longer work. Last fall 19 pigweed seed samples from Greene County were sent to Dr. Jason Norsworthy, U of A Weed Scientist, for screening to PPO herbicide resistance. The seed were grown out in the greenhouse and sprayed with 1.5 pints of Flexstar when they were 1-2 inches tall. From these samples, 42% had over 5% pigweed survival. Another 16% of the samples showed 1% survivors (keep an eye on these fields) while 42% screened had no survivors (PPO herbicides should still work). For the greenhouse screenings, if over 5% of pigweeds sprayed survive, U of A weed scientists recommend the farmer develop an updated weed control management plan. On these fields PPO resistance is starting to develop. Dr. Norsworthy adds that any survivors raise a caution sign. In the screening, no survivors were found in a PPO susceptible population used as a check.

Once PPOs no longer work, what we have left for pigweed management are the class 5 (metribuzin), class 10 (glufosinate-Liberty), and class 14 (Dual, Zidua, etc.) chemistries.

Whether you are growing conventional (also Roundup Ready since glyphosate no longer works on pigweeds) or Liberty Link soybeans, Dr. Scott recommends starting out with a clean field at planting and applying a Pre-emergence herbicide mix or package that contains metribuzin. Consider metribuzen your class 5 pigweed tool for soybeans like you do atrazine in corn. Make sure the variety you have planted is rated at least moderately tolerant to metribuzen. You should also have a class 14 herbicide in the mix. A yellow herbicide or ALS product may work if pigweeds in your field are not resistant to them.

Before your pre-emergence application stops working, you should consider applying another overlapping residual herbicide. If you are growing Liberty soybeans, use your 2 Liberty applications in timely manner to control pigweeds before they get too big. Remember that Liberty is primarily a contact product making it imperative to get good spray coverage. Please let us know if you have fields this season where the PPO herbicides are not working, so we can collect seed to send in for screening.***

Plan On Using Neonic Insecticide Seed Treatment

Insecticide seed treatment is recommended in Arkansas soybean production. Dr. Gus Lorenz, U of A Extension Entomologist, has studied the impact of neonic insecticide seed treatment on soybeans for several years. In his work, over 80% of the time a significant response to yield, on average about 2.5-3 bu/acre, has been seen for plots receiving a neonic insecticide seed treatment compared to those with no treatment. The bottom line is that a neonic insecticide seed treatment is good insurance for protection from seedling insects, and is generally a good return on your investment.***
CORN

Fertilizer Needs

According to Dr. Jason Kelley, Arkansas Extension Feed Grains Specialist, corn nitrogen (N) fertilizer rate is highly dependent on a producers yield goal and soil type. For most growers shooting for over 200 bushel yields, 220 units of N is recommended for our lighter soils while the rate bumps up to 290 units for our more inefficient clay soils. For those with dry land fields or fields with production in the 150 bushel range or lower, drop the N rate 60 units for both soil types. Apply 40% of the total N near or at planting.

P and K fertilizer recommendations remain the same based upon the yield goal (125, 150, 175, and 200 bushels per acre). Fertilizer rates recommended by the U of A were formulated to replace the nutrients removed with the grain, plus provide additional plant food to build soil test P & K levels up to a medium range over 8 years.

Don’t forget about Sulfur (S) and Zn. Corn grown on sandy soils is most likely to see low levels of these nutrients and respond to supplemental fertilizer. Zn deficiency is more like on soils with a high (6.0 plus) pH.***

Pipe Planner Program Effort Continues

This season we will again help producers set up a field or two using computerized polypipe hole selection program (Pipe Planner). Our goal is to show farmers that water, energy, time, and money can be saved by fine tuning polypipe irrigation. The Greene County NRCS and Conservation District will be supporting this effort. Please give us a call if you have a field in mind that could water out better.

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