Planting Progress

A number of fields now have rice in the ground after (somewhat) favorable conditions this week. Conditions were right to get a lot of ground prepared for the season and where people felt like they could also get some planted they did. Ground temperatures are still on the cool side so it may sit there for a little while, but warm day and night temps early next week may talk some of it into germinating. Then we’re supposed to cool back off at night for the remainder of the week (lows in the 40s).

National Weather Service projections say we’re very likely to have below normal temperatures over the next 8-14 days which should keep things interesting. Keep in mind that we’re not out of the woods just yet for a late freeze or cold spell. See for yourself in Table 1 the last spring day with a low temperature at or below freezing for the past 10 years. It doesn’t look likely, but 2007 sure made things interesting.

Based on the table, once we’re beyond the first week of April we’ve been in the clear the past 10 years. From this point forward we’re probably going to be ok in terms of a freeze, but cooler than normal weather could slow the progress of any crop in the ground and result in additional inputs.

After we get through this round of storms it looks like we should be in the clear until the end of the week. Temps in the upper 60s and 70s should help move things right along.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Last day at or below 32°F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Mar. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>April 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>March 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>March 13</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>April 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blackbirds Attacking Newly Planted Rice

We’re starting to receive reports that in certain areas blackbirds are falling into rice fields right behind the drill. In some cases (Picture 1) the number of blackbirds hitting fields is extremely high.

This spring, a new seed treatment product known as AV-1011 received a Section 18 emergency exemption for use in Arkansas. This product is intended to deter blackbirds from feeding on rice seed. The field pictured below was not treated with AV-1011.

Picture 1. Blackbirds entering a field to feed on freshly planted rice seed.
There has been some recent confusion about AV-1011, including the cost of the product. Here are a few things to know:

- The application rate is 18.3 oz per 100 lbs of seed (18.3 fl oz / cwt).
- The suggested grower price per gallon is $195.
- At a 70 lb / acre seeding rate, this product would cost ~ $19.50 per acre.
- At a 30 lb / acre seeding rate, this product would cost ~ $8.36 per acre.
- Situations where growers might see the most benefit from this product:
  - Very early or very late planted fields.
  - Isolated fields.
  - Fields that are water seeded.
  - Fields that are broadcast seeded.
- This product is labeled for use as a seed treatment ONLY.

See the label and documentation here: [http://plantboard.arkansas.gov/Pesticides/Documents/14AR01%20Section%2018%20AV-1011%20Bird%20Repellent%20for%20Rice%20Seed.pdf](http://plantboard.arkansas.gov/Pesticides/Documents/14AR01%20Section%2018%20AV-1011%20Bird%20Repellent%20for%20Rice%20Seed.pdf)

Always read and follow label directions.

Insecticide Seed Treatments – Don’t Leave Home Without One

The benefits of insecticide and fungicide seed treatments continue to show through year after year. While most rice seed receives at least a fungicide seed treatment, there is still a considerable amount of seed planted without an insecticide seed treatment. Across a range of severity of insect pressure, these products consistently show a benefit to rice producers.

Insecticide seed treatments have been evaluated in a large number of trials in Arkansas since 2007. Averaged across those trials, use of an insecticide seed treatment results in a positive return on investment ~80% of the time and the average yield increase is 8-10 bushels per acre. That’s what is known as “bang for your buck”.

CruiserMaxx Rice, NipsIt INSIDE, and Dermacor X-100 are the insecticide seed treatments currently labeled in Arkansas. CruiserMaxx Rice and NipsIt INSIDE seem to provide better control of grape colaspis while Dermacor X-100 seems better on rice water weevil. Overall they’re pretty similar and you should base your decision on price. Keep in mind when pricing that CruiserMaxx Rice contains an insecticide AND fungicides; while NipsIt INSIDE and Dermacor X-100 are insecticides ONLY.

If you plan to water-seed your rice, Dermacor X-100 is the only one labeled for this use. Water-seeded systems often result in more severe infestations of rice water weevil so use of this seed treatment may be extremely beneficial in those situations.

DD50 Enrollment

Some changes have been made to the online DD50 Program this year. Hopefully these and future changes will continue to make the program easier and more efficient to use. If you have any questions, or suggestions for improving the program, please let us know. You can access the online program here: [http://dd50.uaex.edu/](http://dd50.uaex.edu/).
Additional Information
Arkansas Rice Updates are published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to jhardke@uaex.edu.

This information will also be posted to the Arkansas Row Crops where additional information from Extension specialists can be found. Please visit the blog at http://www.arkansas-crops.com/

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