Planting Progress

Rain, rain, go away. I think we’re all getting a little tired of it these days. As sure as we complain about it now, we’ll be wishing for it again in a month. Never more than 2 weeks away from a drought it seems.

Believe it or not, the forecast for this summer is “hot and normal”. We do seem to finally be settling in warm spring weather at least. Depending on which 10-day forecast you’re looking at, it seems as though next week could finally be go time. Chances of isolated thunderstorms exist for a couple of days next week, but it’s currently better than it has been where the predictions weren’t for “if it rains” but for “how much”.

Last weekend certainly saw a fairly large push in acreage in just a short window – about 48 hours of hammer time by my watch. We surged from about 5% the week before to around 20% planted by the time rain hit Sunday. For many last weekend was the first rice they put in the ground.

**Figure 1** illustrates how planting progress is measuring up this year compared to the past several years. So far our progress in 2014 is behind 2010, 2011, and 2012, but ahead of 2008, 2009, and 2013. We’ll need a pretty good run over the next few weeks to stay ahead of ’08, ’09, and ’13 though as those years great progress was made from Week 15 to Week 18.

I think I can speak for most of the specialists when I say that if the rain holds off next week, you can probably find us in a field somewhere planting, just like everyone else.

Command by Air in Arkansas

In order to put out Command tank mixes by air in Arkansas the specific tank-mix must have undergone a droplet spectrum study conducted the State Plant Board and be labeled under a 24C Special Local Needs label in the State. Below is a list of current 24C labels for Command tank-mixes by air in Arkansas rice. These labels are available online at: [www.plantboard.arkansas.gov](http://www.plantboard.arkansas.gov).

**Command two-way tank-mixes** are labeled with one of the following:
- Aim, Bolero, Broadhead, Buccaneer Plus, Clincher, Cornerstone, Credit Extra, Duet, Durango, Facet 75DF, Glyphomax Plus, Glyfos Xtra, Grasp, Makaze, Mirage Plus, Mustang Max, Newpath, Permit, QuinStar, Rattler, RiceBeaux, Ricestar HT, Stam, SuperWham, Sharpen, League, Tomahawk 4, Tomahawk 5, as well as COC or NIS.
Command three-way tank-mixes are labeled for the following:

Facet 75DF, Grasp, or SuperWham; as well as SuperWham + Permit; Ricestar HT + Facet L or Storm; Duet + either Permit or Permit Plus; League + RiceBeaux or SuperWham or ClearPath or Grasp; Permit Plus + Newpath or Honcho Plus or SuperWham or Facet 75DF or ClearPath; RiceBeaux + Permit Plus or Facet 75DF or Newpath or Prowl H2O or Facet L; RicePro + Permit or Facet 75DF; RiceShot + Permit; Sharpen + Beyond or ClearPath or Facet L or Newpath or Buccaneer Plus or Permit Plus or Ricestar HT or SuperWham; Stam M4 + Permit Plus; SuperWham + Newpath or Facet 75DF or Permit or Facet L or Prowl H2O; Tomahawk 4 + Sharpen; Tomahawk 5 + Sharpen.

*Obey herbicide contains Command and quinclorac (Facet). The following tank-mixes have aerial labels in Arkansas with Obey:

Aim, Clincher, Newpath, Permit, Propanil 4E, Ricestar HT, SuperWham, as well as COC and NIS.

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service does not conduct the trials or write these 24C labels. For more information, please contact the State Plant Board or the manufacturer.

Water-Seeding & Seed Treatments

Some are looking to water-seed rice as fields have remained saturated and we now have more desirable temperatures. If you are thinking about water-seeding a field that you were previously going to drill-seed, here are a few things to keep in mind about seed treatments you may already have or are thinking about using.

CruiserMaxx Rice-treated seed cannot be aerially broadcast or water-seeded. Period.

NipsIt INSIDE-treated seed has a statement on the label which says “… dry-seeded rice treatment. Cover the planted seed thoroughly with soil.” This reads as though you cannot broadcast by air, but ultimately the seed is definitely supposed to be covered with soil.

If your seed is treated with fungicides only, such as Apron, Maxim, and Dynasty, you can aerially broadcast / water-seed it, but Syngenta does not recommend this practice.

Dermacor X-100-treated seed does have a 24C label for water-seeding, so you can broadcast this seed by air into water.

For seed treated with Release (gibberellic acid), the label seems a little unclear on whether you can water-seed. However, there are known issues associated with this seed treatment in a water-seeded system, primarily a result of the treatment causing increased shoot growth compared to root growth. This can lead to plants “falling over.”

Do not pre-soak treated rice seed of any kind – insecticide, fungicide, etc.
Market Report

In a shortened trade week, September rice futures settled at $14.33 on Thursday. The contact has spent the last four weeks trading in a fairly tight 15 cent price range. This week, September futures traded from a low of $14.27 on Tuesday to a high of $14.38 on Thursday.

Fundamentals:
For the week ending April 10, net U.S. export sales totaled 25.8 TMT. All sales were for the 2013/14 marketing year. Weekly sales need to average about 47 TMT to meet USDA’s April demand forecast.

As mentioned last week, Iraq has issued an import tender for long-grain rice. Offers are due by April 20. The U.S. has been included as an origin for this tender.

Technicals:
For the September contract, continue to watch the four week high of $14.40 as a key level of resistance. A close above that price level creates the possibility of further upside. A close below $14.24 would have the opposite effect, as that price level has held as support over the past four weeks.

Outlook:
The key fundamentals offering price support today are (1) tight old crop (2013/14) long-grain ending stocks and (2) the slow pace at which the 2014 crop is being planted. However, any price support offered by planting delays (i.e. weather) can diminish quickly. Following a significant rain chance Monday (4/21), weather conditions look to turn drier and warmer in the state for the remainder of next week. If rapid planting can resume before the end of April, the new crop contracts will quickly turn their focus back to the heavy acreage increases that were forecast in the March Prospective Plantings report.

Another factor likely to pressure new crop prices will be the May 9 USDA supply/demand estimates for 2014/15. These will include the March 31 planting intentions and in all likelihood an outlook for U.S. long-grain ending stocks to rebuild following this year’s crop. With the expected sharp declines this year in California medium-grain acreage, ending stocks on the medium/short-grain balance sheet may continue to tighten in 2014/15.
DD50 Enrollment

**Currently a minor delay in the availability of the program due to our recent website upgrade. It will be running fully soon.**

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](mailto: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/](http://www.arkansas-crops.com/).

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