



Arkansas Rice Update

Drs. Jarrod Hardke & Bob Scott

April 27, 2018 No. 2018-09

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Crop Progress

“Rainy night in Georgia, Kentucky rain, Here comes that rainy day feeling again, Blue eyes crying in the early morning rain...” That sums up a radio playlist that would’ve been appropriate this spring. Are we having fun yet? Not so much...

Survey says: we were 53% planted as of Monday (Fig. 1). It may still be higher than that, but we’re definitely not much higher. Seeing the rice in the ground up and down the state it looks more like at least 60% has been planted to date (maybe closer to 70%?). It’s hard to believe, but next week we’ll hit May 1.

Rainfall amounts over the past week (Fig. 2) have been somewhat shocking. For most, we weren’t expected to get but a relatively small amount of rain on Sunday. Then it kept raining on Monday and rain showed up in the forecast for Wednesday. Wednesday’s rain turned into a lot and more showed up on Thursday. I want off of this merry-go-round. It’s clear that others do to, and so the calls have turned to rice yield potential going forward as we stare down May plantings.

Fig. 2. Rainfall accumulation for the past 7 days (NOAA).

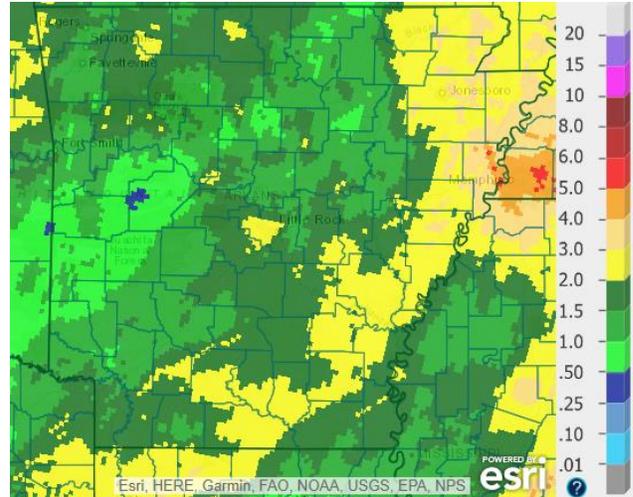
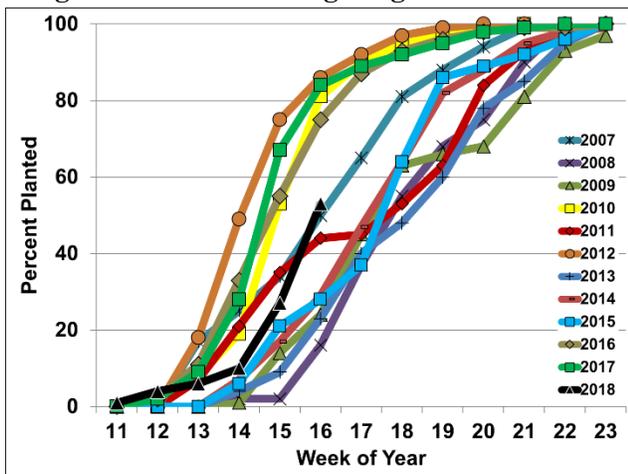


Fig. 3. March planted rice starting to finally green up and show a good stand.



Fig. 1. AR Rice Planting Progress 2007-2018.



How Long to Keep Planting Rice

The forecast for next week looks better than our recent ones, so hopefully can get in another planting run. Based on questions received of late, folks are clearly thinking about when they might switch from rice to soybeans. Late harvest is a concern as we delay, but what about yield potential? There’s data for that!

If we go through the yield data from planting date studies at Stuttgart the past few years (Table 1) we can see some interesting trends (this doesn’t include all planting dates, just ones of

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current interest). Generally speaking, there isn't much difference in yield potential between planting this coming week and planting out to May 20. Yes, individual operations need to consider harvest conditions (when and how).

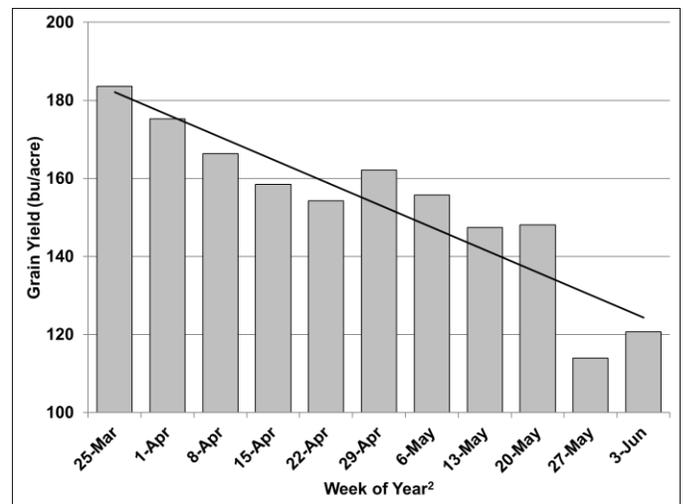
The three years in the table, 2015-2017, give us a snapshot of the range of conditions we might encounter this year. In 2015, we were hot and dry and plantings were relatively late. In 2016, we were able to plant very early, but ran into high nighttime temperatures in late July. In 2017, we planted early and had mild growing conditions throughout the season.

In 2015, our mid-April planting saw yield declines before rebounding to higher yields in early May. In 2016, response was mixed based on cultivar maturity as some cultivars declined steadily by planting date and others dropped before rebounding some. In 2017, we saw a decline in early May before somewhat of a rebound in mid-May.

There is no way of knowing exactly how 2018 is going to shake out. The data says the yield potential won't change much over the next few weeks, but of course anything can happen in an individual year. Weigh your individual risks related to yield potential and harvest timing/ability when deciding how long to continue planting rice or switch to another crop.

Some still have reservations about small plot data – “there's a difference between yield plots and whole fields” I'm often told. I readily acknowledge that can be true so we look to add more power to our data – **Fig. 4** shows field yield averages from the Rice Research Verification Program. Across 459 fields over 36 years, the story is the same – there is not much difference in yield potential over the next few weeks, on average. Again, anything is possible in one year, but we still have time for success, and in some years, still near optimal yields.

Fig. 4. Average grain yield by planting date – RRVP fields 1983-2017¹.



¹ Grain yield data from 459 RRVP fields.

² Day that week begins on (approximate across years).

Table 1. Percent of optimum grain yield by planting date, 2015-2017, Stuttgart, AR.

Cultivar	2015				2016				2017			
	3-Apr	21-Apr	5-May	19-May	5-Apr	23-Apr	6-May	9-Jun	5-Apr	18-Apr	2-May	19-May
CL153	100	88	95	97	97	84	65	72	93	100	88	80
CL172	98	83	100	97	91	78	56	74	89	100	89	86
Diamond	100	78	91	99	98	83	69	84	100	96	89	98
LaKast	100	88	93	98	100	85	81	79	98	94	87	91
Roy J	100	74	86	94	92	92	76	86	90	95	80	91
RT XP753	97	98	100	97	100	77	90	73	98	93	87	93
RT XP760	99	90	95	100	91	80	90	78	89	100	86	84
RT CLXL745	89	98	100	96	98	92	97	83	100	99	72	96
Jupiter	100	86	90	88	98	95	76	79	93	100	86	99
Titan	100	80	80	67	100	84	74	74	94	93	79	79
MEAN	98	86	93	93	97	85	77	78	94	97	84	90

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Where Does Loyant Fit in My Weed Control Program?

Build a herbicide program, then use Loyant if needed at pre-flood. What that means, is Loyant isn't going to be the backbone of your weed control program. The backbone still needs to be residual products in some combination of Command, Facet, Prowl, Bolero, Sharpen, and League depending on your needs.

If these don't keep us clean then we can use other products such as Ricestar, Clincher, Propanil, or Loyant (to name a few). Loyant is a good herbicide that we're excited to have, but it should be a "I'll use it if I need it" product, and probably NOT be on every acre in every program.

BUT, if you have barnyardgrass that is resistant to other modes of action or problems with annual sedge, then you might be the exception. In these situations you may need to plan on including Loyant in your pre-flood program to control weeds you otherwise can't.

Loyant is a pre-flood herbicide – we want to spray it and then have the field flooded in 7 days or less (3 days or less even better). It is for post-emergence control of broadleaves, aquatics, and some grasses. It is NOT a residual product. So if we're getting to flood timing and we're clean, we may need to apply another residual herbicide to keep us that way, but we won't need to spray Loyant if the field is clean.

Remember the rate on Loyant is 1 pt/acre + 0.5 pt/acre of MSO. Apply immediately before flood or it can be applied post-flood.

Fig. 5. Deeper seeding depth (1 in.) on some drill sections helped to prevent blackbird damage in this grower field.



Fig. 6. Rice planted a week ago (4/20) making good progress.



New DD50 Program is Live!

Check out <http://DD50.uaex.edu> for the overhauled DD50 Rice Management Program. You will need to create a brand new log-in this year (no accounts will be carried over from last year as in the past). We have tried to make this version extremely user friendly, but in doing so it is a little different than the old version. If you run into any issue, please call or text me directly at 501-772-1714 or send emails to riceadvisor@uaex.edu.

This new version looks and functions great on mobile phones and tablets in addition to



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desktop. We will still be looking to make improvements that our users want, so please pass along any comments you may have for additional improvement to the site.

Again, this update would not be possible without the efforts of the Division of Agriculture IT team and supporting funding from rice farmers administered by the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board.

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 rice@uaex.edu.

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

More information on rice production, including access to all publications and reports, can be found at <http://www.uaex.edu/rice>.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely appreciate the support for this publication provided by the rice farmers of Arkansas and administered by the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board.

The authors greatly appreciate the feedback and contributions of all growers, county agents, consultants, and rice industry stakeholders.

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