



# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke

May 17, 2019 No. 2019-12

[www.uaex.edu/rice](http://www.uaex.edu/rice)

## Help, I Need Somebody, Help

“I ain’t cut out to be no Jesse James, don’t go writin’ hot checks down in Mississippi, and there ain’t no good May rain.” That’s our current twist on the tune anyway.

We’re now officially more than 50% planted, but why does it not feel that way? **Fig. 1** continues to show us holding tight to 2013 progress, and I can only hope that we see a repeat of that year’s summer conditions and yields.

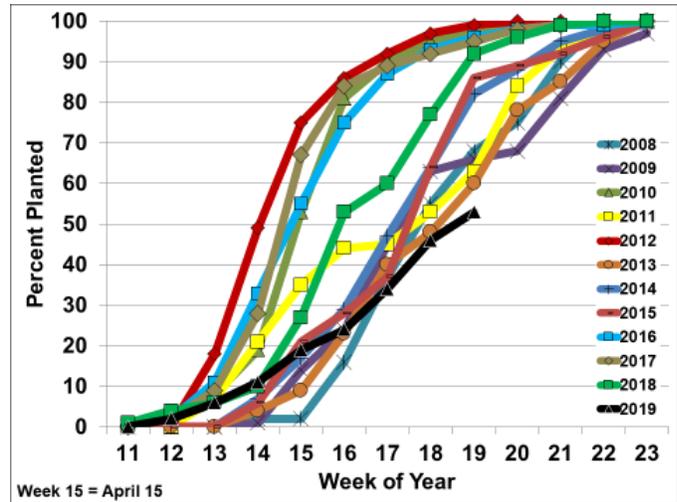
At this point of the year, we were at 52% in 1985, 41% in 1984, 40% in 1993, 35% in 1993, and 34% in 1991. Since records began in 1981, those are the only years with slower planting progress than 2019.

There is of course more rain in the forecast for this weekend into next week. These next two rounds are supposed to bring 1-2 inches of rain to eastern Arkansas in addition to severe weather including high winds and possible tornadoes.

This past week as brought unanticipated rainfall events to mainly the northern half of the state including several tenths Sunday night and then anywhere from ½ inch to 2.5 inches on Wednesday night. Some of that included a little hail as well. This is to say that the area most behind was arguably allowed the least amount of progress in what otherwise appeared to be a favorable week for progress. For some areas, there were great strides in progress though.

These events, combined with what is expected this weekend into next week, will likely carry us through the May 25<sup>th</sup> final planting date for rice in regard to prevented planting. I believe many will consider, and should, planting rice into the first week of June. However, the lack of progress this week combined with next week’s forecast has me seriously rethinking that acreage projection of 1.1-1.2 million acres from last week. That whistle you hear is the sound of falling acres.

**Fig. 1. AR Rice Planting Progress 2008-2019.**



**Fig. 2. Rice struggling to emerge from under a sudden hard crust actually needing rain.**



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## Flood'em If You Got'em

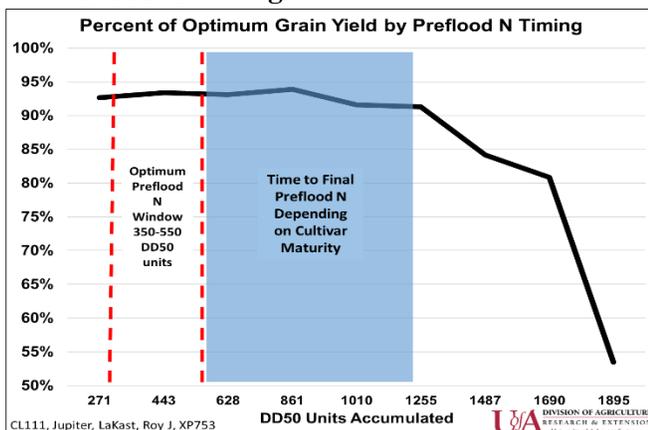
There is definitely rice out there that NEEDS to be going to flood now. Some fields have been flown with fertilizer the past two days and more I hope are on the way.

The earliest planted rice has now accumulated enough DD50 units that we should be worried more about its age and less about its size. Rice at the 4-5 leaf stage is generally going to be around 6 inches tall. Fertilize and flood up! It's not too short.

Even with a conventional cascade flood and a large head of water it's only going to be covered somewhat for a couple of days at most before that deeper water passes and the rice catches the nitrogen and begins growing out. The worst thing we can do right now is to wait and 10 days from now hoping we dry out while we watch rice lose yield potential.

Fig. 3 gives a general representation of yield decline as preflood N is delayed. This is averaged across multiple cultivars and we'll dig into the details of that work in the future. Remember that it doesn't count until the fertilizer is incorporated by the flood! Meaning by the final N date on a DD50 report the fertilizer should be out and the field flooded up.

Fig. 3. Rice Grain Yield as Affected by Preflood N Timing.



## Armyworms in Rice

“You’ve got worms” is never something you want to hear. In north Arkansas, some young rice anywhere from the 2-4 leaf stage has true armyworm moving into areas and eating it down to the soil line.

Drs. Gus Lorenz and Nick Bateman have been looking at armyworm damage and defoliation the past couple years. They found that 2-4 leaf rice eaten completely down to the ground yielded 50% of rice that had no damage. The majority of the rice will come back, but it has a great deal of catching up to do. Applications of DAP or ammonium sulfate may or may not generate any actual improvement in the affected areas, but could help the rice catch up to the rest of the field.

Fig. 4. True armyworm eating rice off at ground level.



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## Seedling Disease Pressure

Strangely to some, seedling disease is becoming more obvious with the warm, sunny conditions this week. In reality, much of the rice affected was planted 5-6 weeks ago and the fungicide seed treatments have long been gone.

Now that conditions are improving, the healthy rice plants are taking off and the infected rice plants are drying out and dying off. The current conditions have just made the effect more obvious it seems.

It's important to take a close look in these situations. While seedling disease could be at play, we need to rule out other factors that could be responsible or involved such as grape colaspis, salt, or herbicide drift.

**Fig. 5. Seedling disease is showing up increasingly this week.**



## I Keep My Herbicides to Myself and You Keep Your Herbicides to Yourself

Everyone is in a hurry, I get it. Also, nobody needs anymore problems than they already have. Be smart about your herbicide applications out there. The calls on drift from Roundup, Gramoxone, Sharpen, Newpath, etc. are starting to crank up. Some we'll have to replant, others we may find a way to keep. Accidents happen, but we need to do a better job taking care of everyone's hard earned stand out there.

**Fig. 6. Suspected glyphosate injury to rice from drift.**



## Rice Advisor Now Available

We've been working on a new site with links and calculators that is now posted for you to check out: <http://www.RiceAdvisor.com>.

This site was built "mobile first" so that it will work great on your phone or tablet. This will hopefully serve as your landing spot for DD50 login, calculators for seeding rate, drill calibration, and fertilizer, and links to videos and publications. Let us know what you think!



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## 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](mailto: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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