Arkansas Rice Update

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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Let It Grow

"Roll on down the road, let it roll. I've never stopped to ask myself if the gettings worth the goal." Rains this week should essentially close the door on 2019 rice planting season. Some received far less rain than anticipated, but it seems everyone received enough to put a halt to the week.

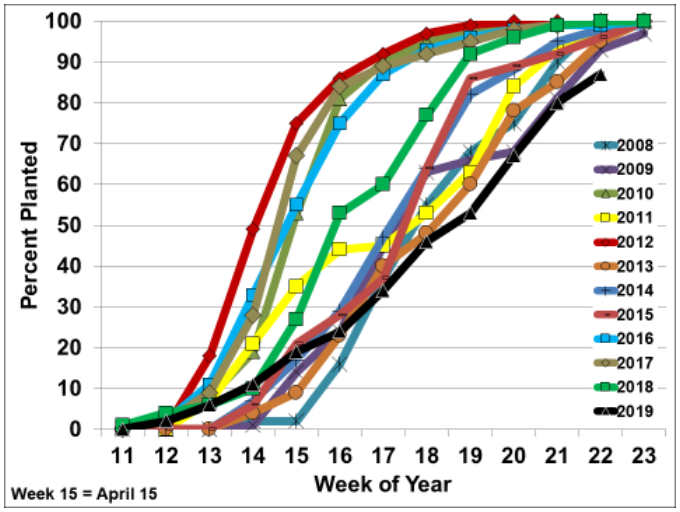
Plenty of folks noted that they may have been finished planting a certain percentage of their intended acres, but with this rain they were finished. Meaning those with 75% planting progress on Tuesday became 100% planted with the rainfall. **Fig. 1** next week should show essentially completed rice planting progress.

Now the focus must turn toward managing what we have in the ground. Warm temperatures have increasing acres going to flood. Still surprised there aren't more acres already enrolled in DD50 program (http://DD50.uaex.edu). Stay on top of that preflood N timing! Eyeballing the growth stage or "age" of the plant is a good way to be late with the timing.

Temperatures next week are set to be mild and very helpful for rice growth and development. We won't be maxing out on DD50 units, but we'll have plenty of them and the milder conditions generally mean good things for rice at this stage. Looking at DD50 unit accumulations, you might say we compare closest to 2014 at least as far as recent years. That would be a good one to match as it still ties for the state yield record with 2013.

This hasn't been an easy season for anyone, but a few extra thoughts toward those in the Arkansas River Valley affected by the flooding. Farms and homes are underwater and hopefully the water recedes quickly. Stay safe out there.

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



Risk Outweighs Reward for Additional Rice Planting

Now is in fact a good time to stop planting rice in Arkansas. As always, it could be possible to make a good crop planted later than now. However, the majority of data indicates that after the first week of June, yield potential really falls off the cliff and even the best years don't show very competitive yields. Time to move on to beans and leave the rice seed in the sack.

Fig. 2. Storms drop needed(?) rainfall across the Delta this week.

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Urea Versus Ammonium Sulfate for N Needs in Rice

Ammonium sulfate (AMS) is a more stable fertilizer form than urea when applied to soil. However, the additional cost of AMS is not usually worth it given the low amount of N compared to urea. In some cases such as with young rice it may be advantageous to use AMS or even DAP to apply some N in these more stable forms than to use urea.

When soil is dry, AMS will have less ammonia volatilization than urea. For preflood applications, we can use NBPT-treated urea to reduce the volatilization and it makes more economic sense over AMS.

When the soil is wet (muddy) then AMS is much more stable, but we can still make urea more competitive by treating it with an NBPT product. Again, comparing the cost, it's easier to apply NBPT-treated urea and the additional N at a lower cost makes it preferable to AMS.

Now what about if we're applying N into a standing flood, whether at 5-leaf rice or at midseason? The answer is that you should always use urea in these situations, and there is NO NEED to treat it with an NBPT product. Applications of AMS into the water show no advantage over plain urea.

Rice Water Weevil Scarring

We have received multiple phone calls over the past week about rice water weevils (RWW). Based on our observation, this year is trending toward a bad RWW year, with most fields that have been flooded in the last 10 days have major RWW leaf scarring.

While this scarring from adult RWW feeding is superficial and doesn't cause yield loss, this is a sign that adults are present and active in the field. Unfortunately, with the weather conditions we have had, planting has been delayed along with flood timing. Based on planting date studies, we have observed much higher RWW pressure in rice planted after mid-May.

A bulk of the rice in Arkansas is either treated with NipsIt or CruiserMaxx insecticide seed treatment, which are excellent on grape colaspis; however, efficacy on RWW with these products decreases 28-35 days after planting. Although RWW pressure is higher for later planted rice, these plantings typically grow rapidly and we can get to flood within 3 weeks of planting and still get sufficient control of RWW with NipsIt or CruiserMaxx.

For rice that is past the 28-35 day window going to flood, a foliar application of a pyrethroid like Mustang Maxx, Lambda-Cy, or Declare might be called for. Timing is critical on foliar applications for RWW. Applications must be made within 5-7 days of permanent flood establishment. If it is later than that, our studies indicate you may as well keep the insecticide in the jug.

Your only option then is to drain the field until the soil cracks to prevent weevil damage. Most growers aren't crazy about doing that as it is costly and may impact weed control and fertility. Remember, late rice will have high populations of rice water weevil and staying vigilant with scouting and timely applications will be critical.

Fig. 3. Rice water weevil adult feeding on a rice plant.

Fig. 4. Leaf scars in rice from adult rice water weevil feeding.

Fig. 5. Turtle damage in rice where plants have been completely severed.

Fig. 6. Glyphosate drift continues to be an issue as we burn down fields to plant soybean near emerged rice.

Rice Advisor Now Available

Visit http://www.RiceAdvisor.com for your DD50 login, calculators for seeding rate, drill calibration, and fertilizer, and links to videos and publications. Let us know what you think!

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.

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