Crop Progress

“It’s those changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes, nothing remains quite the same, with all of our running and all of our cunning, if we couldn’t laugh, we would all go insane.”

We can still say that 2019 remains committed to not being a dull year. Will it be hot or mild, wind calm or 40 mph, sprinkling or a downpour? When we think we have it figured out, we’re wrong.

This weekend into next week represents the latest rise and fall. A few days are forecast to hit the upper 90s before falling back into the mild upper 80s into late August.

These continued mild conditions do point toward higher milling quality. However, if these sporadic showers continue through harvest once again we’ll have issues with head rice yields and of course rutted fields.

The elephant in the corner of the room this week as been the upcoming FSA Acreage report. On Monday, Aug. 12 at 11 a.m. we’ll get to see rice acres planted, failed, and prevent planted. The main focus will be on just how low AR rice acres fell this year with expected record shattering prevented planting acres. The hardest year to predict acres will finally have its answer. Note that the numbers listed there won’t be finalized until the January report, but typically there are relatively few acres added to rice after the August report.

Comment of the week: “Don’t risk more than you can afford to lose.”

Harvest is so close some folks can taste it. Table 1 provides a prediction of when fields will reach 20% grain moisture (harvest). It’s clear that we’re fast approaching a big push, now if we can just get decent grain drying conditions.

Table 1. Percent of acres predicted to reach 20% grain moisture by week based on DD50 enrollment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage As of 8/9/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 4 – 10</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 11 – 17</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18 – 24</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25 – 31</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1 – 7</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8 – 14</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15 – 21</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 22 – 28</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 29 – Oct. 5</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6 – 12</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13 – 19</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1. Sheath blight remains on the move in susceptible cultivars – scout!
Interest in Ratoon Crop

“You serious, Clark?” Yes, there have been several questions about trying to turn some of this earliest maturing rice into a ratoon crop. Here are a few guidelines to use based on a) limited research in AR, b) limited experience in AR, c) recommendations from gulf coast states, and d) AR weather conditions.

If you’re going to attempt a ratoon crop, here are a few guidelines you may want to follow:

- The taller the combine leaves the stubble, the faster the ratoon crop will mature but the lower the yield; and the shorter the combine leaves the stubble, the slower the ratoon crop will mature but the higher the yield.
- So – you want to harvest so that your stubble height is left about 8-12 inches high, with preference toward taller height.
- Apply water back to the field to keep plants healthy and active. Shallow / wet is fine.
- If you’re harvesting by about 8/15, applying 100 lbs urea/acre could boost ratoon yields. After 8/15 the additional N risks delaying the crop too much. Application of rates over 100 lbs urea/acre may delay maturity too much even when made early. Apply N before putting water back on the field.
- Every fall will be different and give different results! Yield expectations should be anywhere from 25-75 bu/acre (but some won’t make anything).
- Not all cultivars are well suited to attempting a ratoon with. Hybrids, particularly RT Gemini 214 CL and RT XP753, performed very well in a ratoon trial in 2018. Also notable were Titan, Jupiter, CL272, RT CLXL745 and CL153.
- RT CLXP4534 will likely be the most widely attempted ratoon crop, but has not been tested recently and in a 2012 ratoon crop trial RT CLXL745 performed better.

- Early maturity is not an adequate predictor of ratoon crop yield potential – each cultivar will differ in performance.
- Harvest of a ratoon crop will be about 90 days after the main crop harvest – so if you harvest main crop Aug. 15 then you may harvest ratoon crop Nov. 15. That is if it has dried enough by that point.
- Expect low milling yields (head rice and total), but grain will likely be of excellent quality (low chalk).

Fig. 2. Rice field draining is a welcome sight anywhere.

Insect Update

Still seeing a healthy population of stink bugs in headed rice fields. Once fields start drying down, stink bugs will begin to concentrate on the late planted rice. Those fields have the potential to see some large numbers of stink bugs, so keep an eye on them.

We looked at a lot of row rice this year and we can find billbug in around half of them. In some fields the damage looks pretty significant, in others its fairly sparse. We have several trials out evaluating the efficacy of seed treatments on them and when to time an insecticide application. Below are a few pictures of what they and their damage looks like. Sometimes we will find them buried up in the stem of a plant, sometimes they are in the ground below the plant.
Disease Update

Sheath blight remains active but most earlier planted fields have outrun the disease. If you’ve made it to heading and the upper 2-3 leaves are still clean, then you’ve outrun sheath blight from a yield limiting standpoint. It can still blow out late and cause lodging issues in susceptible cultivars that are also known to lodge.

Blast has been very quiet beyond leaf lesions on the usual suspects. However, in Mississippi there have been some serious reports of blast on specific varieties. So, if you have varieties out there planted late that are blast susceptible, we need to think really hard about making at least one protective fungicide application to combat neck blast.

Finally, there have been isolated cases of Cercospora (Narrow Brown Leaf Spot) in rice.
This happens some years, particularly those that are mild and rainy. For instance, this was fairly easy to find in 2014. It is usually not found at yield-limiting levels in Arkansas, but it can be confused with other diseases when it’s on the leaf and sheath. One of the better defined characteristics is the net blotch appearance when it infects rice stems (Fig. 6). As always, if you see something questionable, give us a call.

Fig. 6. Close-up of the net blotch appearance of Cercospora on a rice stem.

Upcoming Field Days w/ Rice
- Aug. 15 – Greene Co. Field Day.
- Aug. 23 – Woodruff Co. Field Day.

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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