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Rice Update  
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This is the first edition of the Rice Update for 2006 and will continue on a weekly basis until the crop is out of the field.

Temperatures and conditions for this year have been quite favorable for rice. At the first of this week, USDA reported that 44% of the crop had been planted. With the good planting conditions this week, I would expect 75 to 80% of the rice crop has been planted. The south part of the Delta has rice up and growing at a good pace. After the recent rain, a majority of this years rice crop will be germinating and emerging next week. Predicted temperatures for the upcoming week are cooler than experienced this past week; therefore, rice growth and development will be a little slower.

With the recent rain, this will activate any PRE herbicides that have been applied. Timely rainfall events and flushing will help keep these herbicides active within the soil and allow you to get the most bang for your buck. This year I have heard every excuse in the book on reasons why not to use Command. Even with the recent price increase in Command, it is still a valuable tool to use in rice. If you are not planning on using Command in your weed control program, be careful to not let the grass get ahead of you and make it difficult to control later. Be timely with your postemergence weed control programs even if you are using Command. Timeliness is the key for weed control in rice. I would rather be to early than to late.

Since there is not much on the fore front that needs to be addressed immediately, I will make a short discussion on glyphosate drift and how you need to handle a probable glyphosate drift event. On any drift complaint, my role is help you identify what herbicide drifted on to your rice crop and help make a recommendation on what to do with the crop along with how to manage the crop for the remainder of the growing season. If you feel that you have a legitimate drift complaint, you will need a Mississippi Bureau of Plant Industry (MBPI) representative come out to inspect and fully document the case. I strongly encourage you to only call a representative if you have legitimate complaint. Please do not call a representative to come out just because someone was spraying glyphosate right next to your rice crop.

To legally document the case, the rice tissue samples will have to be taken by MBPI representative. You cannot take the sample and put it in your freezer in the event you feel that you have a drift case. For the case to be legal, it must be documented through the MBPI.

As a whole, drift complaints have gone down in recent years. However, there are still drift cases that occur every year. I do encourage you to watch your crop from the time it emerges until the combines are in the field. Inevitably, I get calls every year at harvest time on fields that do not yield well or have poor milling quality. At that time there is not much I can do to help you because it is harder to find drift symptoms and where the source of the herbicide drift came from. The sooner you can identify a problem, the better off you will be in documenting a drift complaint.

I hope I do not have to go on drift complaints this year, but in reality they will more than likely occur. If I can help in you in anyway with any concerns or questions with herbicide drift or anything else, please do not hesitate to call me.

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If you want to be added to my direct emailing list, email me at [nathanb@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:nathanb@ext.msstate.edu). Also, feel free to contact me at 662-822-7359.