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Rice Update
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The past week has not been as ideal for growing rice. At Stoneville, the average high for week was 76.5º F and the average low was 58º F. That is 3.5 degrees below the normal high and 2 degrees below the normal low. With the cooler and cloudy conditions, the average high for soil temperature at 2" was 6.5 degrees below normal. Before this week we were moving along at a good pace with this years crop, but with cool and cloudy conditions, the growth and development of the rice has slowed down. We have a lot of rice nearing the flooding stage, but we need some sunshine and warmer weather to push this rice along before we can flood it.

The wet weather has led to a lot of soybeans and cotton getting sprayed with glyphosate. This has in return led to some glyphosate drift complaints this week. When trying to diagnose whether or not it is a herbicide drift problem, there are two things you need to observe: 1) pattern and 2) symptoms on surrounding susceptible weeds such as johnsongrass. In herbicide drift cases, rice is generally affected more on one side of the field and levees than the other, which indicates where it came from. The other thing to look for is symptoms on susceptible weeds around turn roads. I have seen a lot of grown up soybean and cotton fields within the past week. With these fields being wet, they will likely get sprayed with an airplane. Therefore, be cautious when applying glyphosate and give a friendly reminder to a neighbor if there are soybeans or cotton next to your rice.

This wet and cool weather has made some weed control decisions difficult. Since it is wet, I have been recommending more Clincher than normal. Once it begins to dry out and the sun begins to shine more, I will be switching more towards using RiceStar HT in grassy situations. With the cooler temperatures predicted, propanil will not be as active; therefore, a different herbicide, such as RiceStar HT, may be necessary until it warms back up.

I will repeat what I said about Agrotain in last weeks update. Since we have had some wetter weather, we have had a few calls about using Agrotain on wet soils. If you are thinking about doing this, you will need to let the soil dry somewhat so that the nitrogen can move into the root zone. If the field is soupy wet, nitrogen will not have much room to move into the root zone and would essentially being apply nitrogen in the flood where it is less efficient. Therefore, allow the soil air out a bit before making the application.

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