



Nathan Buehring
Extension Rice Specialist
Rice Update
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It seems this week things have begun to turn around. The warmer weather has been a tremendous help in making this crop grow along with some fertilizer and water. Last week I was somewhat worried about the rice that we decided to keep after a glyphosate drift event. Most of these fields have responded as well as could be expected following some fertilizer and water. These fields have pretty much had to be babied along. In most cases, I have been recommending to flush to keep it alive and growing until the plants get back to a healthier status with a good root system and then flood. Flooding, especially deep, can hamper the plants ability to tiller and compensate in areas of the field that were hit worse by the glyphosate drift.

With a lot of these fields being thinned out because of glyphosate drift, rice water weevils are a big concern. Yesterday, I was scouting some fields that were thin and had just recently been flooded and found several adults and feeding scars. If you have not applied a pyretheroid insecticide before flood establishment or after, I would be scouting for adults and feeding scars. We do not need to compound one problem with another. In most cases where the stands are thin, I have been recommending to treat. If you are going to make another herbicide application before the flood, I would include a pyretheroid insecticide in the mix if the stand is thin. Research from other universities has found that a pyretheroid application up to seven days before the establishment of a flood can be effective for rice water weevil control. If applying a pyrethroid in the flood, the application needs to be made as soon as the flood is established and no later than five days after flood establishment because the adults will have already begun to lay their eggs. Here are the pyretheroids I have been recommending for use and their respective rates: Karate Z (1 gallon/50 to 80 Acres), Mustang Max (1 gallon/32 to 40 Acres), and Prolex (1 gallon/62 to 100 Acres).

This has relatively been an easier year for weed control. Rain received at the first part of May contributed to this. We have seen more preemergence control out of Command and Newpath than in previous years. However, there will be fields that will need a post-flood clean up treatment due to not getting the flood established in a timely manor or having some escaped grasses from previous pre-flood applications. In these situations, I like to come with a shallow flood so that the grass can be above the water and exposed to the post-flood application. Also,

these applications need to be made within about seven days after flood establishment. Once the rice begins to grow and canopy, it becomes more difficult to get good coverage down underneath the canopy. Clincher is still the most consistent post-flood grass control material. Last year we did have some problems with Clincher, but it all goes back to getting good coverage.

Most of the rice in the southern part of the Delta has been fertilized and flooded. Rice that was planted the last week in March in this area will be approaching mid-season in about a week. As you move up the Delta, more and more rice is going to flood and rice that was planted in the middle of May, due to it being too wet to plant for two to three weeks, or because of drift, is now getting to the one to two leaf stage. I think there is more rice planted in the middle of May than indicated on the USDA Crop Report.

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. As a side note for Tech Info users, I have been unable to send you my rice update because it gets blocked and becomes undeliverable. I have had this problem in the past with Tech Info, so you might check with them to resolve this issue.