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Rice Update
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USDA, at the first of the week, reported Mississippi was 37% planted and 17% emerged. Rice that was planted the last week of March and the first week of April started to emerge the first of this week. Rainfall received on Wednesday across the Delta area averaged 0.5" to 1.5". This was a much needed rainfall because rice was having difficulty emerging through a crusting soil surface.

Rice stands look better now since it rained. This has been a really slow spring. Soil temperatures and DD50 accumulation has been below normal. Looking at next week's forecast, things should pick up speed with highs in the upper 80's.

Some early season nitrogen (ESN) has gone out and more will probably go out this coming week.

With the warm weather over last weekend and first of this week, grasses have begun to emerge even behind preemergence applications of Command. I would not say that the Command application was a failure because it has been about three weeks from the time of the application until emergence. On some of the fields that I have seen, there was more grass than rice, which is not a good feeling.

Some postemergence herbicide applications have gone out on rice. With the cooler weather now, most of the applications have been halted. Warmer weather is expected at the first next week. That will make our weed control products work better.

As always, be proactive than reactive when it comes to grass control. You can never kill grass too early. If you have small grass and good soil moisture conditions it is the most opportune time to kill it. If the weather warms up, it will only take a few days for the grass to put another leaf on it. By this time, the soil moisture conditions will be less than optimal. The end result will be big grass that is drought stressed, which makes it harder to control and more expensive. Be vigilant because things can change overnight.

Since the recent label change with Harmony Extra (0 day plant back), I have been receiving several calls on the control of volunteer RR-soybeans with Harmony Extra. As of right now, we do not have any data on this. However, we will have some trials with Harmony Extra in them to determine the effectiveness on volunteer RR-soybeans. Talking with other scientists, we would expect the control to be in the 60-70% range when Harmony Extra is applied at 0.6 oz/A. Also, it should injury the soybeans enough to make them less competitive with the rice.

Most of the rice that "sick" last week is now beginning to recover. A portion of the stand will be lost; however, we believe there is still enough of a stand to keep the rice. I have not seen or heard of any rice that will have to be replanted due to the cold weather.

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.