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Rice Update
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USDA at the first of week reported Mississippi was 63% planted and 33% emerged. I would now estimate that we are 75 to 80% planted. Rice that was planted from mid-March to mid-April has emerged and is at the 2- to 3-leaf stage. With the dry and colder weather received at the first this spring, most of the rice that was planted during that period is at the same growth stage meaning there will be a lot of rice ready to harvest at the same time. Rainfall received over the past couple of days averaged 0.5" to 2". This was a welcomed rain for many because it saved flushing to activate preemergence herbicides and incorporate any fertilizer that was applied. If the weather stays good, I would expect to be flooding some rice within a couple of weeks.

I would rate rice stands this year good to excellent despite the colder weather received at the first of April. All of the rice that appeared sick to the freeze appears to have fully recovered. A percentage of the stand was lost on some fields; however, there was enough left to make a crop. Rice that emerged following the cold snap came up to a good stand with very few problems. The rains received over the past couple of weeks has help the rice emerge through the dry crusty soil conditions.

Herbicide and fertilizer applications were applied to several fields this week. I have gotten calls on whether or not Command can reach back and kill grass that has already emerged after receiving rainfall. Sometimes Command can come back after a rain and kill tiny 1-leaf grass. Anything that is about 2 leaf or bigger will typically be injured but will more than likely over come this and continue to grow once it dries back out. Command has worked well with the rains that we have received. I would begin to look for it to break before flooding, especially were the application was made 2 to 3 weeks before emergence. Where no Command was applied this year, the grass has flourished. In some cases we have seen a good stand of grass before the rice gets fully emerged.

Most of the Clearfield rice this year has been planted next to conventional rice due to its limited availability. Since this has been the case, I have found myself recommending more Clearpath than I normally do. This has been for two reasons: a little bit bigger grass and/or it has to be applied with a ground rig to avoid drift. Clearpath will help on grass that is bigger than 3-leaf. If the application has to go out with a ground rig, I want something with added residual for the grasses that the Facet portion of Clearpath can offer. The main reason for the residual is because the second application may be put out later than desired because the wind blowing towards the conventional rice for a period of time that delays the second application of Newpath. So I am thinking worse-case scenario.

Red rice pressure in the Clearfield rice this year has been heavy in spots. This is mainly due to all of the Clearfield rice was planted on heavy red rice acres. Where I have seen thick stands of red rice, I have been upping the rate of Newpath to 6 fl oz/A on Clearfield varieties only (CL-161 and CL-171). Also, use at least 10 Gallons per Acre on both ground and air applications for all Newpath/Clearpath applications.

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.