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Rice Update
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This week USDA reported that Mississippi is 99% planted. The Mississippi rice crop is rated as 10% excellent, 79% good, and 10% fair. As you can see, this year 89% of crop rates good to excellent. Looking at the past five years, this is the highest it has rated. The five year average for the rice crop condition at this time of year is 79% good to excellent. I would also agree that we are off to a great start. Hopefully we can maintain this momentum throughout the remainder of the season.

Temperatures and DD50 accumulation for the week has been normal for this time of the year. Some of the later planted rice has been somewhat slow to grow off. This has been mainly due to the lack of rainfall to keep the plants actively growing. In some cases we have decided to fertilize, flush and then apply a shallow flood. With water, fertilizer and warm temperatures this rice should grow off at a good pace.

Rice water weevil pressure seems to have been building over the past week. I would encourage using a pyretheroid insecticide on later planted rice, especially if it has a thin stand and/or it will be flooded earlier than normal. As mentioned last week, a pyretheroid insecticide can work if applied 7 days before the flood. If going post-flood, apply a pyretheroid insecticide within 5 days of flooding to kill the adults before they lay their eggs. All of the pyretheroid insecticides have shown to be equally effective for rice water weevil control as long as the proper rate is used. Here are the pyretheroid insecticides labeled for rice water weevil control 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).

Some post-flood grass control treatments have been going out as well. The best time to make these treatments is about 7 days after flood establishment. Ideally, the best way to make these treatments work is to establish the flood, turn the well off, let the water settle down for a few days, make the herbicide application, and then start pumping it back up the following day after the application. This will allow the grass to get the most exposure to the herbicide. Waiting until later in the season to make any clean up application can result in a failure because the grass will be bigger and can be under the rice canopy, making it hard to get a good dose of the herbicide. For multiple grass species, Clincher at 15 fl oz/A is still the best option. For barnyardgrass only, Regiment at 0.67 oz/A is a good option plus it can control any late emerging hemp sesbania (coffeebean) or northern jointvetch.

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