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 Rice Update  
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Weather over the past week has been hot and dry. The average high for the week at Stoneville has been 94 F (5 degrees above normal) and the average low has been 72 F (3.5 degrees above normal). There has been no widespread rain this week. From May 1, we are 5.3" below the average at Stoneville. This week USDA reports that Mississippi rice crop rates 13% excellent, 76% good, and 11% fair.

With the combination of fertilizer, water and hot weather, this rice crop is moving along at a fast pace. Rice that was planted at the end of March to the first of April is at or past midseason. I have seen joints in excess of an inch on Cocodrie. Keep a close on your crop to know when to trigger a midseason nitrogen application. To get the most benefit from a midseason nitrogen application, it needs to be applied between panicle initiation to 1/2" joint movement (joints stacking to 1/2" between the top two joints). As I have said, things are moving quickly and you need to closely monitor your crop to get the application made on time.

Since things are moving quickly, keep in mind any growth stage restrictions for certain herbicides that may be used to clean up any escaped weeds (See Table Below). Post-Flood grass control needs to be made shortly after flood establishment. Waiting later will result in grass that is in the boot to heading stage at the time of application, which will make it very difficult to control. Also, by that time you will have already lost yield potential that will not be recoverable.

| Herbicide                                  | Application Window or Restriction    |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Clincher                                   | 60 Days Before Harvest               |
| Beyond (Clearfield 161 and Clearfield 171) | Panicle Initiation plus 14 Days      |
| Beyond (Clearfield Hybrids)                | Panicle Initiation                   |
| Grandstand                                 | 1/2" Internode                       |
| 2,4-D                                      | Panicle Initiation to 1/2" Internode |
| Permit                                     | 48 Days Before Harvest               |
| Regiment                                   | Panicle Initiation                   |
| Grasp                                      | 60 Days Before Harvest               |

If you have any late planted rice going to flood, I would encourage you to use a pyrethroid insecticide for rice water weevil control. As we get later in the season, the rice water weevil population begins build and results in heavy population. Therefore, I would use a pyrethroid insecticide on any late planted rice that is or will be going to the flood soon.

While talking about insects, I have seen rice stinkbugs around lately. At the first of the week, I was riding around a turn row that was grown up in headed johnsongrass and barnyardgrass. By the time I made out to

the county road I my truck hood was covered with rice stinkbugs. Any grass that headed out serves as good habitat for rice stinkbugs until the rice heads. Therefore, if you have any turn rows that need to be mowed, I would do so. It not only makes them look good, but it could save you a late-season insecticide application.

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