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Rice Update
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This is the first edition of the Rice Update for 2008. A minimal amount of rice was planted in the southern part of the Delta this week. If field conditions are good next week, more rice drills will be hitting the fields. The average 2" soil temperature has been 60° F for the last seven days at Stoneville. Looking at the forecast for the next 7 days, the 2" soil temperature will probably remain around 60 F.

On Monday, the Section 18 application for Dermacor X-100 as seed treatment in rice for rice water weevil control was approved. This was a very long and drawn out process in which we hoped we had a decision before now. Nonetheless, it has been approved and will be available for minimal use this growing season. This product is highly effective for rice water weevil control and does provide lengthy residual control. I will be doing more grower demonstrations this year to evaluate rice water weevil control and economics with Dermacor X-100 over using the standard pyrethroid application. If you have a spot where you would like to plant a couple of strips of Dermacor X-100 treated seed, please let me know.

Most of the questions recently have been about weed control issues at planting. Horseweed continues to be a problem for some producers. As we have mentioned before, there are no highly effective products for horseweed control within a 30 day planting window. Products such as Gramaxone or Glyphosate plus FirstShot will provide less than 50% control of glyphosate-resistant horseweed. Flooding is a good control option. However, if there is a thick population, horseweed will out compete the rice during the pre-flood stage and by the time you get to flooding there may not be any rice left in these areas. For thick populations a heavy disk is probably going to be the most effective control option. Under thin populations of horseweed (one plant every so often), it may be economically feasible to leave them uncontrolled and let flood water take care of them later.

I have had other burndown questions about the use of FirstShot and where does it fit. FirstShot is basically a reformulated Harmony Extra to use in the burndown market. Harmony Extra use to have a 45 day plant back restriction. Last year the label was changed to allow for a 0 day plant back restriction. Now with FirstShot on the market it also has 0 day plant back restriction. FirstShot can be applied at a 0.5 oz/A with glyphosate in a burndown window. Its biggest strength by far is smartweed control. FirstShot will also help control henbit and Carolina geranium that can be hard for just glyphosate alone late in the season. To quickly clean up rice ground that has large winter annuals (henbit and Carolina geranium), I have been recommending Gramaxone Inteon. Usually, Gramaxone generally performs better on bigger, flowering henbit and large Carolina geranium.

While walking fields this week, I have already seen 2 to 3 leaf barnyardgrass. If you are planting stale-seedbed, it is imperative that you scout your fields before planting so that you know your weed spectrum. Do not just glass them going down the highway and say I will just spray them with a quart of glyphosate. Depending on your spectrum, you may need more than just glyphosate and you may need to adjust your glyphosate rate. If you are applying glyphosate around planting, I would either spray it a couple of days before or after planting. In some situations we have seen that efficacy of glyphosate can be affected by the grain drill, especially on small summer annuals. If it is applied immediately before the drill, the weeds may become injured by the drill, which may result in less of the glyphosate to be taken up by the weeds. If it is applied immediately after the drill, the weeds may be injured or have dirt on the leaf surface that can reduce the amount of glyphosate taken up by the weeds.

When using glyphosate plus Command at planting time, I would target making the application about 3 days after planting. Holding the application a couple of days after planting will help extend the residual of Command a few days later. However, depending on weather and rainfall, that target date is subject to change.

When applying glyphosate with Command, I would increase the glyphosate rate to at least 1.5 qt/A (4 lb/gal material). With rates lower than 1.5 qt/A, the Command can sometimes antagonize the glyphosate. I know the price of glyphosate has increased, but it is imperative to start with a clean rice crop. The unwillingness to spend a little extra money on some glyphosate can result in 4 to 5 leaf grass when the rice is emerging, which will result in a lot of money trying to clean up that mess.

As planting rice this year, be sure to keep an eye on your seeding depth. Most of the varieties that we grow can germinate and emerge from over an inch deep. I would rather plant the seed a little deeper and get it up from soil moisture than having to flush. Also, when changing from field to field, check the seeding depth to make sure that it does not need to be adjusted. Soil texture and moisture conditions can highly affect seeding depth.

Also, in this rice update I have attached a seeding rate calculator. Follow the instructions listed within the Excel file. The average seed per pound used in this calculator are based on the data collected from the on-farm variety trials. As a result, you may need to contact your seed dealer because seed size may vary slightly between seed lots of certain varieties.

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.