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Rice Update
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Rice planting over the past week has been fast and furious. I would estimate that 30 to 40% of the Mississippi rice crop was planted in the last week. Due to a dry north wind blowing, soil moisture conditions in the south Delta were less than ideal by the end of the week. Today's current rainfall accumulation estimate would be around a 0.5 to 1". In the upcoming week, rice that has been planted needs to be monitored see if the rain provided enough moisture for germination and growth.

While walking stale seedbed fields this week, it has been very obvious that barnyardgrass has not slowed down much this week due to the cooler weather. Plenty of other summer annual weeds have been emerging as well.

With minimal rainfall received today in some areas, I have been getting questions on how much rainfall does it take to activate Command. I would say that it takes at least 0.25" of rainfall to get it in the soil. However, if it did not rain enough to seal the soil it may not be that effective and flushing may be necessary. On Monday, I would start checking fields to monitor the soil moisture conditions. If very little rainfall was received and none is in the immediate forecast, flushing will probably need to be considered not only for the Command activation, but to get the rice to germinate and emerge.

On silt loam soils the recommended Command rate is 0.8 pt/A (1 gallon to 10 A) to 1.07 pt/A (1 gal to 7.5 A). On clay soils the recommended Command rate is 1.33 pt/A (1 gallon to 6 A) to 1.6 pt/A (1 gal to 5 A). Also, in past experiences, anything less than 1.33 pt/A on a clay soil will generally not provide much benefit.

As most people know, Command on clay soils is not a one-shot grass control program. However, it is a good tool to have and use because it can allow you to have rice up before grass.

When using glyphosate plus Command at planting, the glyphosate rate needs to be at least 1.5 - 2 qt/A. This will help over come any antagonism issue with Command. I would rather spend the extra money on some glyphosate than scratching my head trying figure if it is better to replant or try to clean up expensive weeds.

With inputs and rice prices rising, there is a lot of money at stake with this years crop. Therefore, never miss a good opportunity to kill weeds and you can never spray them to early.

When planting cranks back up again, periodically check your drills for proper seeding depth. I would rather plant the seed a little deeper and get it up from soil moisture than having to flush. Soil texture and moisture conditions can highly affect seeding depth.

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.