



LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Dr. Dustin Harrell

July 23, 2018

No. 2018-05

Early Harvest Shows Promise; Heat Worrisome

The early harvest numbers are starting to trickle in and the numbers are all decent with none that I have heard of falling below 42 barrels per acre (6,804 pounds per acre/151 bushels per acre) so far and most coming in at the upper 40's and lower 50's. If you remember, the mean yield for 2017 was about 41.5 barrels per acre, so yields in southwest Louisiana do look promising so far.

We will continue to provide harvest yield updates this year as we have in the past. I will send out a text on Thursday requesting yield data. The request will ask for the PARISH, ACRES, VARIETY, YIELD, and MOISTURE (wet or dry). This data will be collated and then shared with all growers using the text system however, the data will be anonymous and only the parish where the rice was harvested will be shared. The data will include all fields harvested over the 7-day period from Thursday to the following Wednesday. If you have not signed up for the text group please see below for information on joining the group.

The weather this past week was excessively hot throughout the state with daytime temperatures exceeding 100 degrees and night time temperatures exceeding 75. This is worrisome for rice that is flowering and filling the grain. Excessive temperatures above 75 degrees at night can cause grains to abort, it increases chalkiness of the grain and decreases milling. Most of the rice in Northeast Louisiana is between the heading and the grain filling stages. We will just have to wait and see if the recent excessive temperatures will have a negative effect.

Rice in southwest Louisiana is mostly drained awaiting harvest, so the excessive temperatures will probably not have a profound effect in that portion of the state. This hot dry weather has rice drying down at a quick pace. Due to the prolonged cold temperatures earlier in the year which slowed early development, we do not have a big gap in maturity from our early and later planted rice. This could become problematic for some growers to harvest all of their rice at the optimum grain moisture content (22-18%). The excessive heat and dry conditions can also become a problem for the

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ratoon crop if we let the rice sit too long before fertilizing and reflooding.

Ratoon N Fertilization Timing and Sources

Over the years there are always questions about nitrogen (N) sources and application timings in the ratoon crop. In general, the most efficient use of urea N in rice production occurs when the application is made on dry ground and flooded immediately. Improvements in nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) of urea can often be achieved when it is treated with a urease inhibitor that contains the active ingredient NBPT, like Agrotain. This application temporary protects the urea from volatilization losses prior to flooding. Splitting urea applications for the ratoon crop are typically not advantageous. These concepts are illustrated in the research below which was conducted at the LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station in 2017.

The ratoon rice crop does have a much larger root mass as compared to main crop rice at pre-flood and therefore the observed yield differences in the ratoon crop are less dramatic as compared those often observed in the main

Table 1. Effect of N source and time of application on CL153 ratoon yield. HRC Rice Research Station, 2017.

Time of application [†]	Yield [‡]	
	Urea	NBPT-Urea
Immediately after harvest on dry ground	1,928 b	2,297 a
After establishing ratoon flood	1,790 bc	1,703 bc
1/2 immediately before harvest followed by 1/2 7 days later into flood	1,619 c	1,761 bc
1/2 immediately after harvest followed by 1/2 7 days later into flood	1,882 b	2,150 a

[†] A total of 92 lb N/A was applied

[‡] Different letters represent a statistically significant difference.

crop. None the less, the same rules apply. Urea N is most efficient in the main and ratoon crop when applied on dry ground and flooded immediately. If the urea sits on the soil surface for an extended period of time, the addition of NBPT can improve performance. Application of urea into standing water is always the least



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efficient and the addition of NBPT will not be beneficial.



Join the Louisiana Rice Text Group List

If you would like to join the Louisiana Rice Text Group, simply text @larice to 81010. To unsubscribe to the group, simply text

back “unsubscribe@larice” to the group.

If you would like to get the text messages by email, send an email to larice@mail.remind.com. If you would like to unsubscribe to the email messages, simply email larice@mail.remind.com with “unsubscribe” in the subject line.



Louisiana Rice @LouisianaRice

LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station

Louisiana Crops Website @ www.louisianacrops.com

LSU AgCenter Official Website @ www.lsuagcenter.com

Louisiana Rice Notes is published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Louisiana. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to dharrell@agcenter.lsu.edu.

This information will also be posted to the LSU AgCenter website where additional rice information can be found. Please visit www.LSUAgCenter.com.

Additional Information

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