Rice Planting Underway for 2018 – Short Window Before Rains Return

A limited amount of rice has been planted in Louisiana prior to this week. I would estimate that less than 5% of the acreage in the southwest part of the state has been planted before this week. Most of that rice that was planted by water seeding. Drill seeding has been limited thus far. Wet soils have hampered most of the really early rice planting (by drill seeding) that we have seen in the previous couple of years. This is not necessarily a bad thing considering the official recommended window for planting rice in the southwestern portion of the state to maximize yields is March 10 to April 15. The recommended planting window in the northeastern portion of the state is April 1 to May 5. We do have a limited amount of data to suggest that we could move that early window back about 10 days but at this point we cannot make that recommendation.

The silt loam soil in much of the southwestern portion of the state has dried enough to begin drill seeding today as I write this (March 14). The forecast has rain returning to the region on Friday (March 16) so there is a big push to plant as much rice as possible in the limited dry window over the next couple days.

Arkion Announces Rebate for AV-1011 Seed Treatment for 2018

Predation of rice seed by birds is problematic in Louisiana rice annually. Typically, we see the highest bird pressure in rice planted south of I-10. In 2017, we also saw a higher than normal blackbird pressure on rice north of I-10. Several fields had to be replanted due to bird predation in that region last year.

The only protection we have is AV-1011™ which is a bird repellent made by Arkion Life Sciences. It is a liquid seed treatment that can be applied to rice seed at your local seed distributor. The active ingredient in AV-1011 is anthraquinone. The chemical is non-lethal to the birds and is actually found in 94 known plant species. When a bird eats a treated
seed, it gives them digestive distress, and this is what deters them from eating more seed.

One thing for certain is that the AV-1011 seed treatment works, but it is not cheap. It is applied based on the seeding rate of the field. For example, the average price for the seed treatment on a 65-pounds-per-acre seeding rate is about $16.50 per acre. Typical hybrid seeding rates around 22 pounds per acre is less expensive and would cost about $6.41 per acre. Arkion has announced a grower rebate program for the 2018 season to help alleviate some of the cost. The rebate is $25 per gallon of AV-1011. The savings per acre for a 65-pound-per-acre seeding rate would be about $2.33 per acre. If you plant 1,000 acres, that adds up to quite a bit of savings. For hybrids, the savings would be around 90 cents per acre or $900 per 1,000 acres. Rebate forms will have to be filled out and rebate checks will be mailed out in December. More detailed information about the rebate program can be found [here](#). The AV-1011 label and safety data sheet are posted on the AgCenter’s rice webpage and can be accessed directly with the following hyperlinks: [label](#) and [SDS](#).

**Progress on headed rice bird repellent**

Bird predation on headed rice is also a big problem. Research with a formulation of anthraquinone for repelling predation on headed rice is making progress. Problems with this treatment involves determining the application rates, and the rain fastness of the product. Research with the product however looks very promising. An EPA registration is being filed by Arkion for this type of treatment and hopefully we will have a solution for bird feeding on harvest-ready rice in the next couple of years.

**Burndown Plant Back Restrictions for 2018**

With the start of planting for the 2018 season we need to be sure to keep in mind the plant-back restrictions for the burndown herbicides you used this winter. A list of common burndown combinations and plant back restrictions follows. This information is put together annually by Dr. Eric Webster for our Rice Varieties and Management Tips publication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-plant Burndown</th>
<th>Rice Plant Back (Days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D</td>
<td>30; 1 inch rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FirstShot + glyphosate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gramoxone XL</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandstand + glyphosate</td>
<td>21 dry-seeded/14 water-seeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glyphosate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadoff 1.5 oz./A</td>
<td>pH &lt; 6.5; 60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadoff 2.0 oz./A</td>
<td>pH &lt; 6.5; 90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpen + glyphosate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valor + glyphosate</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rice Varieties and Management Tips

The 2018 version of the Rice Varieties and Management Tips publication is now available online (click here for PDF version). The publication contains the official LSU AgCenter recommendations for all phases of rice production including variety selection, agronomy, fertility, diseases, insects, and weed management. Hard copies of the publication are available at your local county extension office. If you are like me, I like to keep a hard copy of the publication in my truck so I can have it handy when I am in the field and not worry if it gets wet. So, be sure to pick up your copy at your local extension office soon.

Furrow-Irrigated Rice (Row Rice) Research to Begin at Rice Station

Furrow-irrigated rice, also known as row rice, is increasing in popularity in rice production areas across the mid-south. The practice involves growing rice by only watering down irrigation furrows in a similar manner to upland crops like corn, soybeans and cotton. The advantages to the system include putting rice in production on land that may have more slope making it unsuitable for growing flooded rice, the ability to make last minute cropping decisions, and a decrease in water use in some years.

Weed control, N fertilization, and control of blast are some challenges associated with the system. Blast can be controlled by planting one of the more blast-resistant hybrids or varieties. Overlapping residual herbicides is the best strategy for weed control in this system. Nitrogen fertilization is where we have the most questions that need to be answered and research has begun at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station to answer some of these questions.
The furrows for the research were made by using a custom made hipper-roller similar to those used in commercial production in north Louisiana and throughout the Delta, although, the implement is on a much smaller scale and facilitates perfectly spaced research plots. The furrow-irrigated research plots were planted on March 15 at the station. Research will evaluate nitrogen fertilization rates and timings which will be compared to similar treatments in drill-seeded delayed flood rice. The RiceTec hybrid CLXL745 and the Clearfield variety CL153 will be evaluated in the studies.

This information will also be posted to the LSU AgCenter website where additional rice information can be found. Please visit [www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com).

**Upcoming**

- June 13  
  Acadia Parish/South Farm Field Day, Crowley, LA

- June 27  
  LSU AgCenter’s H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Field Day, Crowley, LA

**Additional Information**

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](mailto:dharrell@agcenter.lsu.edu).
Figure 1. LSU recently approved the release of its first hybrid LAH169. Members of the Hybrid Rice Research Project can be seen planting breeding lines at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station on March 15, 2018.

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