



Dr. Chuck Wilson, Dr. Rick Cartwright, Dr. Gus Lorenz, and Scott Stiles

July 20, 2010

No. 2010 – 12R

INTRODUCTION – The Arkansas Rice Newsletter is published periodically to provide updates, alerts, and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you know of someone who would like to be added to the e-mail list, please send an e-mail to:

cwilson@uaex.edu.

I have set up a blog to distribute information in addition to the newsletter. If you are interested, you can visit the blog at

<http://arkansasrice.blogspot.com>

CROP CONDITION AND PROGRESS –

As of July 19, the USDA reports that 37% of the crop is heading. This compares to 16% last week, 9% this time last year, and a 5-year average of 9% for this week. Arkansas rice does not normally begin heading in June but we saw that happen in 2010. The crop was seeded earlier and we had 8 straight weeks with temperatures above normal. Thus, the crop has developed much sooner than normal. As of July 19, 21% of the crop is reported to be in excellent condition, 44% good, 30% fair, and 5% poor.

Average temperatures for the week ending July 19 were near to slightly above normal. The temperatures ranged from 1 degrees below normal at Newport to 4 degrees above normal at several locations. The temperatures ranged from a low of 68 degrees at several locations to a high of 100 degrees in Little Rock and El Dorado. Rainfall for the week ending July 12 ranged from none at Hope and El Dorado to a high of 7.0 inches at Fayetteville. Overall, soil moisture supplies were 5% very short, 29% short, 59% adequate, and 7% surplus. The extended heat and dry weather have caused a significant strain on the irrigation capacity across the Delta. Rice fields have spots

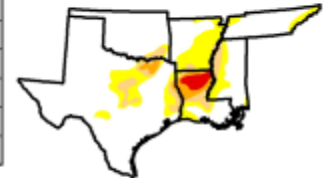
(some large, some small) that are burning because the well is unable to keep up with the dry weather. Officially, most of Eastern and Southern Arkansas is “abnormally dry,” which is effectively a mild drought. These data are collected as of Friday and do not reflect the rainfall that has occurred in much of Eastern Arkansas.

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 13, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Current	74.2	25.8	10.6	4.0	1.4	0.0	0.0
Last Week (2010/07/06)	74.1	25.9	10.6	4.0	1.4	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (2010/04/09)	81.8	18.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (2010/01/01)	86.3	13.7	3.5	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (2010/10/01)	81.9	18.1	11.3	7.3	3.4	0.7	0.0
One Year Ago (2009/07/14)	40.2	58.0	20.7	15.2	12.5	9.0	0.0



Legend:
■ D0 Drought - Abnormally Dry
■ D1 Drought - Moderate
■ D2 Drought - Severe
■ D3 Drought - Extreme
■ D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

USDA
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Released Thursday, July 15, 2010
 Author: A. Arbes, CPC/NMFA

The USDA acreage report indicates that we have planted record rice acreage in Arkansas in 2010. The planted acreage is estimated at 1.681 million acres, up 13% from last year’s planted acreage of 1.486 million. The 1.681 million acres is also 38,000 over the previous record acres of 1.643 million planted in 2005. If the forecasts for good yields are realized, record production is likely. However, the heat and drought coupled with the amount of rice planted on marginal soils are not likely to allow us to harvest a record yield. Very early estimates suggest that CL 151 is the most widely planted variety so far (about 23% of the acreage). The next most widely planted varieties are Rice Tec CL XL 745 (18%), Wells (17%), and Jupiter (12%). These numbers are preliminary and may change as we get more information available.

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INSECT UPDATE – (Gus Lorenz)

Fall Armyworm Alert. This has got to be one of the worst years for fall armyworm (FAW) that I've seen. We have seen FAW's in soybean and pastures and now they are beginning to be a problem in rice. Particularly, in most cases, on late-planted rice and this situation appears to be widespread with reports coming in from all over the rice growing area. I strongly encourage everyone to check fields now for developing populations. These larvae are completely defoliating fields and it can happen quickly so check fields now. They can be easily controlled with pyrethroids. If fields are approaching 20-25% control should be considered.



Rice Stink Bugs. With rice fields beginning to head we are beginning to pick up rice stink bugs in heading rice in many areas. We are seeing numbers well above threshold in many cases. In Lonoke County we observed several fields running about 3-5X treatment level. We put out an efficacy trial and the pyrethroids did an excellent job reducing numbers below threshold.

The information below is right out of the Rice Insect Management fact sheet developed by Dr. John Bernhardt and others and should be used to guide you on sampling:

Rice fields should be scouted weekly or twice weekly beginning at 75% panicle emergence and continued for four weeks. Avoid scouting from mid-day through late afternoon. Use a 15-inch diameter sweep net to sample for rice stink bugs. At each sample site, make 10 consecutive sweeps to the front and sides while walking forward and swinging the net from side to side. Hold the net so that the lower half of the net is drawn through the foliage and panicles. Count the number of adults and large nymphs after each 10-sweep sample. Repeat samples at several random sites (six or more). Avoid samples at field margins and in grassy weed areas. Calculate the average number of rice stink bugs per 10 sweeps. Apply insecticide if infestation is five or more rice stink bugs per 10 sweeps during the first two weeks after heading; or if 10 or more per 10 sweeps is found during the third and fourth week after heading. If the number of bugs is only slightly below the threshold level or if the field is very large, increase the number of samples to improve confidence in sample estimates. Samples taken during the morning hours of 8 to 11 a.m. will improve estimates of rice stink bugs.

Products recommended for control of rice stink bugs includes methyl parathion, Karate, and Mustang Max. See the MP-144 for rates.



RSB Adult

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RSB Nymph



RSB nymphs and egg mass

RICE RESEARCH VERIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE: (Stewart Runsick and Ralph Mazzanti)

General Information: Rainfall totals last week ranged from 1-9 inches across NE Arkansas. Sheath Blight is very active in fields and several have been treated. Stink bug numbers are high in some fields mostly in the southern part of the state. Most of the fields are heading or already have headed. The RRVP tour is scheduled for July 28. We will be visiting the fields in Arkansas, Phillips, St. Francis and Prairie Counties. I will send out an agenda this week.

Northern Fields

Clay County (CL XL 745) – The boot nitrogen application (70 lbs/acre of urea) was applied.

Cross County (CL 142 AR) – Fungicide (Stratego 19 oz/acre) was applied at boot split/early heading for prevention of blast. Stink bugs were below treatment level last week.

Greene County (CL 151) – Fungicide (Stratego 16 oz/acre) was applied last week for control of Sheath Blight.

Jackson County (CL XL 745) – Sheath blight is aggressive in the field; however we feel like the rice will be able to out run it. The boot application of nitrogen was applied.

Lawrence County (CL 142 AR) – Field looks good, no recommendations. The rice will be heading this week. No diseases present.

Lonoke County (Cheniere) – The rice looks better and is growing. The field will begin to head soon.

Mississippi County (CL XL 745) – The sheath blight in this field has moved up in the canopy and is at treatment levels. The field was treated with Quilt (14 oz/acre) plus Quadris (4 oz/acre).

Poinsett County (Truman) (Wells) – Fungicide (Stratego 19 oz/acre) was applied at boot split/early heading for prevention of blast.



Poinsett County (Harrisburg) (CL 151) – The rice in the photos above is showing yellow tips on the third leaf as is the case in many fields of CL 151 in the area. Tissue sampling indicated adequate levels of potassium. The field is not deficient in nitrogen. We are still trying to figure out what is causing the symptoms. Small

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plots of additional fertilizer were applied last week.

Prairie County (Jupiter) –Some leaf blast and sheath blight present. We will make a fungicide decision this week depending on the weather and disease development.

Randolph County (Wells) – Red rice present in the field. Some sheath blight present. The field was above treatment level for rice stink bugs. Recommendation: Insecticide application.

White County (CL XL 745) – The boot nitrogen application (urea 70 lbs/acre) was applied.

Southern Fields

Arkansas County-(CL XL 729) –Stink bugs levels are 4 per 10 sweeps. If levels hold off a couple more days thresholds move to 10 stink bugs per 10 sweeps. The field should be ready for draining by the end of the month. The field received .5” rainfall.

Ashley County-(CL XL 729)-The field looks good and is heading. Stink bugs running 6 per 10 sweeps. Recommendation: Karate at 1 gal /70 acres. The field received .3” rainfall.

Chicot County-(CL XL 729)-The field is running 5 stink bugs per 10 sweeps. The field received 1.3” rainfall. A Mustang Max insecticide application is scheduled at 1 gal to 38/acres.

Clark County-(CL 151) – Quadris fungicide has been applied at 12.5 oz/acre for control of sheath blight. Karate insecticide was applied at 1 gal to 50/acres for stink bugs. Yellow tips are showing up on the 3rd leaf down on this variety in 2010.

Desha County-(CL 151) – Quilt fungicide was applied at 21 oz/acre on 7 July. The field is heading and looks good.

Drew County-(Jupiter)-The field is at early heading. Leaf blast is on the increase. Stratego

fungicide at 19 oz/acre is scheduled for application. Stink bugs are on the increase. The field received .6” rainfall.

Jefferson County-(CL XL 745) – The field looks excellent. The heads are cracking and stink bugs are running 3 per 10 sweeps. Recommendation: Hold off on insecticide treatment for now and let beneficial insects work.

Lafayette County-(CL XL 745) –Stink bugs are present waiting on heads to come out. Overall the field looks excellent. The field received .10” rainfall.

Phillips Co. – (CL XL 729)-The field looks good and is heading. No stink bugs present at this time.

St. Francis Co.-(Wells)-Sheath blight is on the increase. Leaf blast is spotty. Quadris fungicide was applied at 12.5 oz/acre.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crops Field Day – Southeast Research and Extension Center – Rohwer, AR – July 29, 2010. Contact: Larry Earnest (870-644-3101)

Delta Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament – Helena Country Club – July 30, 2010. Contact: Dr. Robert Bacon (479-575-2354)

Pine Tree Biofuels Field Day – Pine Tree Branch Experiment Station – Pine Tree, AR – August 5, 2009. Contact: Roger Eason (870-633-5767)

Randolph/Lawrence County Field Tour – Pochontas, AR – August 6, 2010. Contact: Herb Ginn (870-759-1659)

Rice Field Day – Rice Research and Extension Center – Stuttgart, AR – August 11, 2010.

Program starts at 7:30 am. Contact: Dr. Chris Deren (870-673-2661)

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Other Field Days

Progeny Rice and Soybean Field Day – Wynne,
AR – July 22, 2010

Cache River Valley Seed Field Day – Cash, AR
– August 18, 2010

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely appreciate the support provided by the **Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board** for this publication. The recommendations presented in this publication are the result of research funded in part by rice check-off funds.



The authors greatly appreciate the feedback and contributions of all growers, county agents, consultants, and other rice industry people.

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