RiceTec

People Dedicated to the Field of Rice

Early Season 2009

Published for the customers of RiceTec, Inc.

- Remember to check our website frequently for updates, information, and details on programs.
- Please be sure to enter your emergence in your states DD50 program.
- All unused seed must be returned by June 15th for credit.

Stand Establishment

Jeff Branson

There are many factors that contribute to the yield potential of any rice field. Stand establishment is certainly one of the most important due to the fact that all other inputs can not help what is not there. Seeding date, seed treatments and environmental conditions all play key roles in determining the final plant population. All RiceTec hybrids are treated with Zinc, multiple broad-spectrum fungicides, and Release to enhance germination and early growth. These treatments provide protection that is crucial to ensuring an adequate plant population.

The other two factors listed above can also significantly reduce stand density, but certain steps can be taken to minimize their effects. Multiple year research conducted by RiceTec and several Universities across the rice growing region has shown that the earlier rice is planted the greater the yield potential. However, there is a fine line between planting early and planting so early that you jeopardize stand establishment due to environmental factors beyond your control. This is why RiceTec recommends certain planting dates depending on your geographical location.

Environmental conditions following planting, such as dry weather, can impact plant populations. In many situations simply flushing can solve a whole host of problems. Inadequate moisture following germination combined with the decision not to flush has two outcomes, and both will cost you more money per acre than flushing. The first is uneven emergence that can lead to emergence dates that can be weeks apart. This leads to having multiple growth stages in the same field and management decisions are now based on only part of the field. The second is having to replant because the seed dried out or the plant could not get to the soil surface before leafing out underground.

Many of the fields I look at each year, where stand density is in doubt, flushing would have increased plants per square foot enough that replanting would not have been required. Potential profits are significantly reduced from costs and yield losses that are associated with replanting. I know during this time of the year, flushing takes time when there are not enough hours in the day to get everything done. But don't take a chance on the most important factor in determining yields by making the decision not to flush.

Get It Clean; Keep It Clean

Dr. Brian Ottis

In my opinion, early-season weed control is the foundation for a successful rice crop. Many growers don't realize how small grass and weeds can affect yield early in the season; yield that cannot be recovered. I always recommend beginning with a good foundation preemergence program usually centered around Command™. Prowl™ applied delayed PRE is also effective early for broad-spectrum grass control. It is important, however, to remember that activating these herbicides with rainfall or a flush is critical to maximize their efficacy.

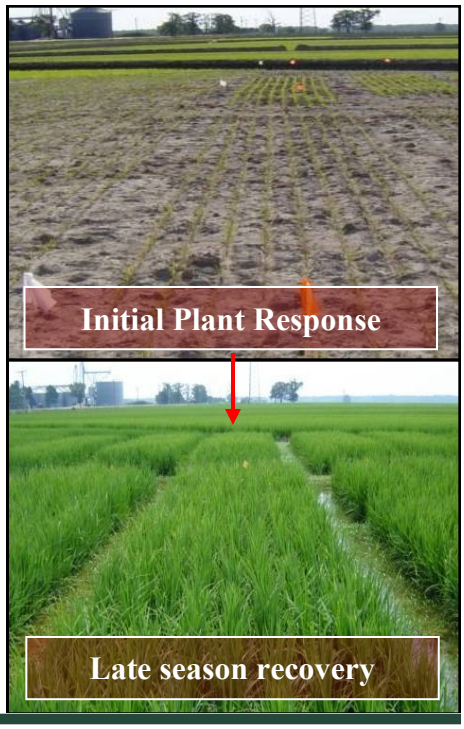
There has been a change to the Newpath™ label in 2009 that should give us an added benefit in our CLEARFIELD™ weed control program. The Newpath label has been changed to allow two, 6 oz/ Acre applications to CLEARFIELD hybrids. We are supportive of this change and hope that you will take advantage of it if the situation calls for it.

I've spent some time this Winter and Spring talking to growers about the importance of water management in the CLEARFIELD system. Since the inception of CLEARFIELD rice, I think this concept has gotten lost or forgotten and has led to the use of a lot of Beyond, that could possibly be avoided. Water management is a very important factor in the CLEARFIELD production system. In fact, a study done in 2003 at Texas A&M University confirmed that soil moisture was actually more important than herbicide rate for maximizing Newpath activity. The Newpath label states to flush or receive at least ½" rainfall within 2 days of a Newpath application. I try to impress upon my growers to turn the well on as soon as possible after a Newpath application (Many times within 4 hours following the airplane or spray rig). I think you'll find that your weed control will drastically improve if you follow this practice.

Something else to keep in mind when considering the 6 oz/Acre rate on the CLEARFIELD hybrids is the potential for herbicide flashing. If the weather puts us into a cool, wet pattern in the spring, it is possible that an early application of Newpath at the 4 or 6 oz/Acre rate can result in temporary flashing or yellowing. Do not be alarmed. The crop will recover with no loss in yield. We have a large amount of data over several years and locations to prove this. Although it may seem unsightly at first, the crop will recover once the weather returns to normal. We recommend continuing to manage the crop as you would under normal conditions for the best results.

The best thing you can do from a weed control standpoint this spring is to get it clean and keep it clean. We have enough weapons in the herbicide arsenal to accomplish the task. Just remember, much of the success of any herbicide depends on water management, so do the best job you can in order to gain the most benefit from your herbicides this spring.

CLEARFIELD® hybrid rice recovers from Newpath™ response under adverse growing conditions.



2009 RiceTec Yield Trials

Jeff Branson

CLEARFIELD® XP751- This new hybrid is a short season rice that reaches 50% heading 8 days earlier than CLXL729. It is also a semi-dwarf with a plant height around 30 inches. CLXP751 also has shown a 19% yield increase compared to CLXL729 and grain retention that is equal to or greater than CLXL745. Milling and disease package are very similar to that of CLXL729.

CLEARFIELD® XP752- This new hybrid is the first smooth leaf hybrid. It is also a short season rice that reaches 50% heading 2 days earlier than CLXL729. It's height and milling is similar to that of CLXL729 and straw strength comparable to CLXL745. Yield potential with this new hybrid is 8% greater than that of CLXL729 and grain retention is equal to or greater than that of CLXL745.

These new experimental hybrids will be evaluated in over 20 commercial strip trials in addition to the over 50 performance and management trials across the mid-south and gulf coast regions. If you would like to look at these hybrids in the field please feel free to contact your local RiceTec representative to find a location near you.

The Argument for Early-Season Fertilizer

Dr. Brian Ottis

Every year the questions arise about applying early-season, or starter nitrogen to a rice crop. Some growers choose to do it regardless, while others may apply early-season N only when fertilizer prices are conducive or under adverse growing conditions. Recent research has been conducted to try to shed some light on this subject. A study conducted by researchers in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri determined that early-season N (about 18-20 lbs N) on clay soils improved yields as opposed to the same application on silt loam soils. The researchers hypothesized that this effect was likely because more N was readily available in silt loam soils as compared to clay soils. In their studies, when adequate preflood N was applied on silt loam soils, the early-season application did not improve yields.

Another potential benefit of early-season fertilizer comes in the way of phosphorous, potassium, and/or sulfur response. Many of the fertilizer sources used early in the season are blends that also contain these nutrients (AMS, DAP, MAP, etc). Due to the extremely high fertilizer prices experienced in 2008, many growers opted out of applying these fertilizers to their crops. In areas that have been in continuous rice for many years, we are beginning to see the effects of low soil test phosphorous levels in our rice yields. Remember that the most important nutrient in a rice crop is the one that is deficient. Make it a priority to soil test at least every three years to determine your baseline nutrient levels. You might find some surprises out there that will make or cost you a lot of money. Check with your technical service representative for the proper nutrient levels for RiceTec Hybrid Rice.

Hybrids Perform Great – Even Late!

Chad Duckworth

As you are probably aware, RiceTec Hybrid rice consistently outperforms varietal rice in "normal" situations. With the indecision on what to plant, we would like to encourage you to consider planting hybrids on your late planted acres.

Late planted rice is usually stressed during pollination due to increased temperatures and disease pressure. These factors typically lead to yield loss. Hybrids oftentimes perform significantly better in stressful situations such as late plantings. The extensive tillering capacity, hardy disease package and overall hybrid vigor put more dollars in the growers' pockets when environmental stress increases.

In 2007 a yield trial was conducted on furrow irrigated rice following wheat. In this trial XL 723 averaged 166 dry bushels per acres in comparison to Wells, Cocodrie and Trenasse which yielded 133, 129 and 127 respectively. The hybrid advantage ranged from 37 to 53 bushels per acre. This may not be the typical yield for this situation, but it does show the potential of hybrids in comparison to varieties. Talk to your local technical representative for more details and planting recommendations.

Don't Wait Until the Last Minute

Chad Duckworth

We still have some seed available of XL723, CLEARFIELD XL729 and CLEARFIELD Hybrid Rice Levee Blend. As returns start coming in it is also possible that we will have some CLEARFIELD XL745, CLEARFIELD XL730 and CLEARFIELD XP746. Give your local RiceTec representative a call to check on available quantities.

As planting is going, we will have some extra seed setting at a few locations in each district for finishing fields or adding extra acres as the season goes on. We encourage hybrid growers not to wait until they are headed to the field to place an order for seed. Typically we can have seed moved to almost any Service Partner within a day or two, but walk-in business for RiceTec hybrids will usually require a 24-48 hour window for seed to arrive.

Reminder of Payment Options for Late Planted Hybrids

Chad Duckworth

We like to give our customers every opportunity to plant RiceTec Hybrid Rice that we can. Customers can always book RiceTec Hybrids on cash terms. FarmPlan still offers a nice opportunity to finance hybrid purchases, which is Prime plus 1.75% and can be carried until December of 2009 if needed. This is a great financing option that will not require customers to take money out of their farm loan funds early in the season.

Also, RiceTec will finance growers who are willing to fill out and sign a Promissory note that gives RiceTec the option of filing a lien against the crop. This option will work off RiceTec's May pricing terms for seed ordered after March 31, 2009, and will accrue interest at 1% per month until 45 days after harvest or October 31st, whichever is first. Accounts not paid after the end of October will accrue at 1.5% per month until paid.

New Boundaries Drawn for Some Districts

Jeff Branson

RiceTec has made a few minor changes in the boundaries of its regional districts. Please look at the map on page 4 of this newsletter and make note of any changes in your district sales manager or technical services representative. These changes were made so that we could better serve our costumers and we hope they are not an inconvenience.

Reminder on RiceTec Hybrid Stand Guarantee and Return Program

Jeff Branson

Please remember there has been a change for broadcast seeded rice for 2009. All broadcast seeded rice is covered at 50% of acres planted. This includes water seeded rice which also is required to be pre-soaked for 24 hours prior to seeding. Also there have been changes in the return program as well. In 2009 you can return up to 10 % of seed purchased under spring terms that is in unopened paper bags and returned to service partner by June 15th.

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Email addresses for representatives available at
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