



*People Dedicated to the Field of Rice*

## Keep Weed Resistance In Mind This Season

**Brian Ottis**

As you begin thinking about your weed control plan this season and booking herbicides, try to be proactive about managing herbicide resistance on your farm. Weed scientists and herbicide manufacturers throughout the rice region have done a good job this year of spreading the word about herbicide resistance. You don't have to look very far to other crops to see the potential for resistance to develop. It's here and it's a reality. In order to keep resistance from building on your farm, there are a few practices that you need to consider implementing in your farming operation. These practices all revolve around the term, **ROTATION**.

**ROTATE CROPS.** The easiest way to manage resistance is to get into a crop rotation. It is not hard to predict (in fact it's already occurring) that herbicide resistance will develop first in continuous rice. The resistance that is most obvious at this point is red rice that has been allowed to survive and outcross with CLEARFIELD Rice. However, it's not too far-fetched to think that barnyardgrass will be close behind in developing resistance to ALS herbicides. In fact, some has already been confirmed in Arkansas, but I expect this to spread rapidly in the coming years. Therefore, rotate to soybeans, or some other crop, so that you are forced to rotate cultivation practices and herbicides.

**ROTATE CHEMISTRY.** You might be saying, "Well, the soybean and cotton guys are dealing with all the resistant pigweed and horseweed, and they rotated crops." Yes, they did in many cases, but they didn't rotate chemistry. Relying solely on glyphosate for weed control for the last several years has taken its toll on a fair share of cotton and soybean acres, and now growers are scrambling to re-learn how to control weeds in soybeans and cotton. All of the sudden we're hearing about Cotoran, Blazer, and other old chemistries that have been sitting on the shelf for the last 12-14 years. A similar revolution is occurring in rice, to some extent. This past winter, we heard a lot about propanil and thiobencarb (active ingredient of Bolero and also included in RiceBeaux). Bolero was a fairly standard herbicide prior to Command hitting the scene in the late '90s. But, over the last decade and since the CLEARFIELD production system has become such a prominent player in the southern rice market, we've shifted our reliance heavily to ALS chemistry (Newpath, Permit, Grasp, Regiment, Londax) for weed control. Nearly all of the new active ingredients introduced in rice weed control in the last 10 years have been ALS herbicides (with the exception of Clincher). ALS herbicides each have a unique weed control spectrum that can really do a nice job controlling weeds. The problem is that weed susceptibility to ALS herbicides is usually dictated by a simple change in a single gene in the plant. This is probably more than you wanted to know, but suffice it to say it takes a very minor mutation in the DNA sequence to confer resistance to ALS herbicides, and resistance to ALS herbicides can theoretically occur much faster than resistance to glyphosate. Therefore, consider mixing things up a little bit this year. If you're uncomfortable about using a herbicide that is new to you, ask someone. Don't just stick to what has worked in the past, because if you stick to it for too long, you're going to be stuck with resistant weeds before you know it. And you think weed control is expensive now?



•To sign up for the RiceTec podcast, email Dr. Brian Ottis at [bottis@ricetec.com](mailto:bottis@ricetec.com)

•Remember to check our website frequently for updates, information and details on programs.

## Early season 2010

### Stand Establishment

Jeff Branson

Many factors contribute to the yield potential of any rice field. Stand establishment is certainly one of the most important. Seeding date, seed treatments and environmental conditions all play key roles in determining the final plant population. All RiceTec hybrids are treated with Zinc as well as broad-spectrum multiple fungicides combined with Release to enhance early growth and provide protection that is crucial to ensuring an adequate plant population.

The other two factors listed above can also significantly reduce stand density; however, certain steps can be taken to minimize their effects. Data gathered by several universities across multiple years has shown that the earlier you plant rice the greater the yield potential. However, there is a big difference between planting early and planting so early that you jeopardize stand establishment due to environmental factors beyond your control. RiceTec recommends certain planting dates depending on your geographical location. RiceTec has an excellent stand guarantee program, but if you have to replant your potential profits are significantly reduced from costs associated with replanting.

Environmental conditions following planting can impact plant populations as well. In many situations flushing can solve a whole host of problems. Inadequate moisture following germination combined with the decision not to flush has two outcomes, and both cost more money per acre than flushing. The first is uneven emergence that can lead to maturity 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 seed dried out or the plant could not get to the soil surface before leaching out underground.

Where stand establishment is a concern, flushing in most cases will increase plant per square foot by 2 or 3 plants. Then you may have 5 to 7 plants per square ft. instead of 2 to 4 plants. Flushing is an added expense and takes time when there are not enough hours in the day to get everything done, but don't risk your stand by deciding not to flush.



### Return Unused RiceTec Seed To Your Service Partner

Chad Duckworth

As a reminder, we are completely sold out of hybrid seed for 2010 plantings. There are still many growers in all areas that are looking for hybrids to plant. With this in mind, we encourage our customers to return all unused Spring Program seed to their Service Partner (where the seed was picked up) as soon as possible in order to help growers who are still in need. Fall Program seed is not returnable to RiceTec, but once planting is done, please call your RiceTec representative and Service Partner to let them know if you have any leftover. Although Fall Program seed is not returnable, we will do our best to help move leftover seed via customer-to-customer transactions until planting is done in all areas. A couple reminders on the return program:

- Spring Program seed is returnable, up to 10% of what was purchased in Spring Program, in unopened paper bags and/or MB that are in good, re-sellable condition
- Seed must be returned to the Service Partner location where it was picked up NO LATER than July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to be eligible for refund
- Returns made between July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 will be assessed a 15% restocking fee
- After July 31<sup>st</sup>, no returns will be accepted
- In order to help track returns and issue credits, a Return Ticket must be completely filled out and signed by the customer and the Service Partner at time of return

## Early Season 2010

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### Spring Orders are Due for Payment Soon

**Chad Duckworth**

Many of you may not have received a bill for your Spring Program hybrid rice seed yet. Invoices for this seed will be arriving in the next few days if you have not already received them. Order information and payments due will be listed on the invoice. Please remit payments by April 30<sup>th</sup> to avoid interest charges on your seed bill.

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### New Drill Calibration Videos at RiceTec.com

**Chad Duckworth**

If you have not planted yet and still need to calibrate your drill, we encourage you to visit RiceTec.com, where you will easily find on our homepage a link that will take you to 3 videos we made to aid in drill calibration. Each video spells out the importance of drill calibration for specific drills: a Great Plains type drill, a John Deere 1590 type drill, and a John Deere 1910 type Air Seeder. Although there are many more options of drills used to plant RiceTec hybrids, we narrowed the list down to these three being the most popular.

Also, the concept for drill calibrations for other types of similar drills are nearly identical, so the tutorial videos should help our customers learn more about drill calibrations. Additionally, we have interactive drill calibration worksheets and recommendations on our website to help further. Call your local RiceTec rep for more information or questions on calibrating your drill.

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### Watch our Newest Hybrids

**Chad Duckworth**

The time has come to plant rice for 2010, and we are excited to let you know that this season we will have four new experimental hybrids in testing. In the Clearfield arena, we will be testing CLXP751, CLXP752 and CLXP754 against current hybrids CLXL729 and CLXL745 with public varieties for varietal checks. Our conventional non-Clearfield trials will have XP754 to compare against XL723 and varietal checks. There is a good chance some or all of these experimental hybrids will be released for sale next fall, so we encourage you to go by our trails and look these new products over from planting until harvest.

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### New Customer Service Option

**Chris Tilley**

In an effort to provide the best customer service possible. We at RiceTec have created, along with our 1-800 #, a new E-mail address as a part of our commitment in our on going effort to give our customers the service and support they need. If you would rather e-mail your questions or concerns you may do so by e-mailing us at [customerservice@ricetec.com](mailto:customerservice@ricetec.com). If you would rather call, please feel free to do so at 877-580-7423 for districts 1-7 or at 877-570-7423 for districts 8-10.

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### The Argument for Early-Season Fertilizer

**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 pre-flood 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.

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**RiceTec Newsletter  
Early season 2010**

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**RiceTec Service Contacts**

**Technical Services**

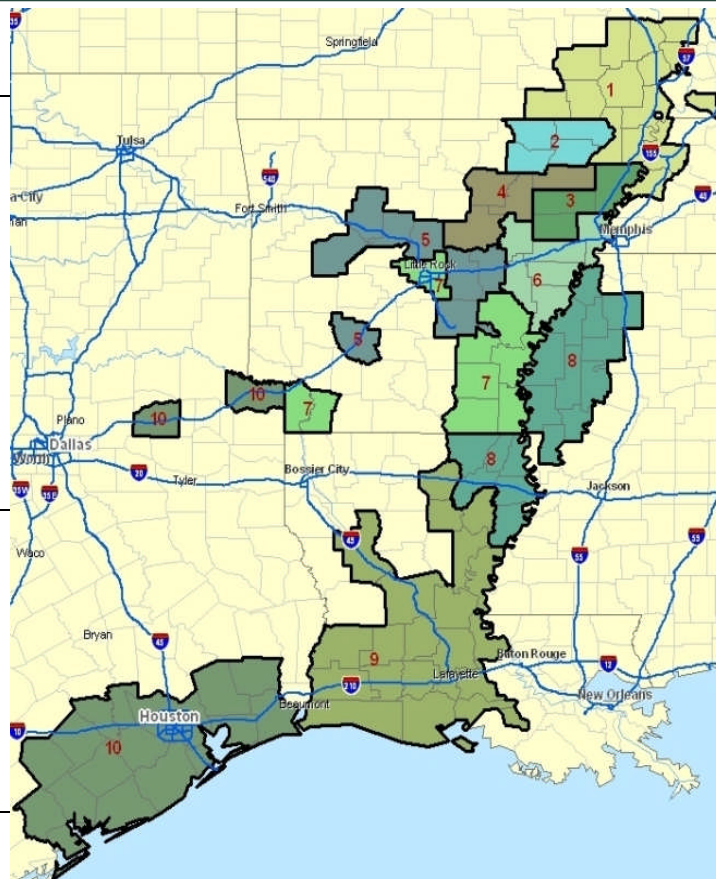
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**Email addresses for RiceTec representatives available at [www.RiceTec.com](http://www.RiceTec.com)**