



Leadership and Innovation Within the Field of Rice

Disease Resistance Protects Profit

Garrison Hardke

There are a variety of diseases in commercial rice production that can negatively impact yield and quality, and therefore decrease potential revenue. The most devastating of these diseases are blast, sheath blight, and more recently, bacterial panicle blight. RiceTec Hybrids help to protect your crop by providing industry leading resistance and field tolerance to these major diseases.

Sheath blight is the most common of the major rice diseases. This is a soil borne disease and is always present in fields that have a history of sheath blight. RiceTec Hybrids normally do not require treatment for sheath blight, but fields should always be scouted to watch for cases where a fungicide application may become necessary.

Blast is an airborne disease that can be devastating to non-resistant varieties that go untreated. RiceTec Hybrids have shown to be resistant to the races of blast common in our area and should not require treatment for this disease. Fields should still be scouted in the event that a new race of blast were to become a problem. If leaf blast is observed, it is recommended to treat with an approved strobilurin fungicide at late boot and again about a week later to stop the disease from moving to the panicle.

Bacterial panicle blight is a disease that while not common historically, has proven to be devastating to some non-resistant varieties in recent years. There is currently no treatment available for this disease, but RiceTec Hybrids have shown to have great resistance to it.

With the recent news of fungicide resistant disease in Louisiana, it is now more important than ever to choose cultivars that are resistant to disease. The disease package in RiceTec Hybrids helps you to avoid losses to disease, avoid treatment costs, and therefore add more return for your investment.



PRODUCT	DISEASE REACTION ¹								CHARACTERISTICS		
	Blast ²	Sheath Blight	Straight Head	Kernel Smut	False Smut	Stem Rot	Bacterial Panicle Blight	Narrow Brown Leaf Spot	Stability	Maturity	Grain Retention
CLEARFIELD® Long Grain											
CLEARFIELD XP756	R	MR	MS	MS	MS	S	MR	MR	Average	Medium Late	Above Average
CLEARFIELD XL745	R	MS	MR	MS	MS	S	MR	MR	Average	Early	Average
CLEARFIELD XL729	R	MS	MR	MS	MS	S	MR	MR	Above Average	Early	Below Average
CLEARFIELD XP4534	R	MS	MS	MS	MS	S	MR	MR	Excellent	Very Early	Above Average
CL111	S	VS	S	S	S	VS	S	VS	Above Average	Early	Above Average
CL142	S	S	MS	S	S	S	S	S	Above Average	Early	Above Average
CL151	VS	VS	VS	S	S	VS	VS	S	Below Average	Early	Above Average
CL181	S	VS	MS	S	S	VS	VS	S	Above Average	Early	Above Average
Standard Long Grain											
XP754	R	MR	MS	MS	MS	S	MR	MR	Below Average	Medium Late	Above Average
XP753	R	MS	MS	MS	MS	S	MR	MR	Above Average	Early	Above Average
XP744	R	MS	MR	MS	MS	S	MR	MR	Average	Early	Average
XL723	R	MS	MR	MR	MS	S	MR	MR	Average	Early	Below Average
XP4523	R	MS	MS	MR	MS	S	MR	MR	Excellent	Very Early	Above Average
Wells	S	S	MS	S	S	VS	S	S	Average	Medium Late	Above Average
Cheniere	S	S	MS	S	S	S	S	S	Above Average	Early	Above Average

¹RiceTec hybrid disease ratings and characteristics are determined from data collected from specific RiceTec and/or University field trials and are not a guarantee of performance, nor do they constitute a warranty of fitness for a particular use.

R = Resistant; MR = Moderately Resistant; MS = Moderately Susceptible; S = Susceptible; VS = Very Susceptible

²RiceTec hybrids have shown field resistance to common strains of rice blast fungus. Possible susceptibility to unusual strains of the rice blast fungus, which have been thus far rare on one hybrid in the field to date, is being analyzed under controlled conditions in the laboratory and greenhouse.

Although RiceTec hybrids normally do not require fungicide treatment, fields should be scouted closely for diseases and treated with fungicides when necessary. Consider field history and environmental conditions when making fungicide decisions. Apply preventative applications of fungicide if justified by field history for Kernel Smut, False Smut, and/or Narrow Brown Leaf Spot.



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Also available on our website: WWW.RICETEC.COM



LATE SEASON 2012

Recommended Nitrogen Timing

Garrison Hardke

RiceTec's recommendation for all hybrids is to apply 30 units of nitrogen (N) at the late boot stage of development. Applying N at this stage helps to protect against lodging by improving straw strength and promotes maximum grain fill.

Although not normally recommended for RiceTec Hybrids, it may sometimes be necessary to apply the boot N earlier as more of a mid-season timing. Sometimes this may occur if pre-flood N was lost, for whatever reason, and the rice starts to yellow before boot stage. Keep in mind that applying boot N early may also increase the chances for lodging.

Some RiceTec Hybrids are naturally lighter green than others so if you have questions on applying N early please contact your RiceTec Technical Representative.

Rice Stinkbug: Be On The Lookout

Garrison Hardke

A very mild winter coupled with an abnormally warm spring should serve as a warning sign to be on the lookout for Rice Stinkbugs in 2012. The factors are present for populations of this insect to be high this growing season. Headed grasses such as johnsongrass and dallisgrass around the edges of fields can serve as a staging area for stinkbugs. Once rice starts to head out, they will move into the field and feast on the crop. This is all the more reason to keep turnrows clean and not allow weeds to go to seed.



Damage from stinkbugs in milled rice is known as peck, and can cause kernels to break during milling, which reduces yields. Economic threshold for stinkbugs during the first two weeks of heading is 3-5 bugs per 10 sweeps of a stinkbug net. After that, threshold is 10 bugs per 10 sweeps of the net, until rice reaches dough stage.

Scouting for stinkbugs is most effective during early morning and late evening, as they are most active during the cooler hours. After scouting, consider applying an approved insecticide only if threshold levels are reached.

Draining Rice

Dr. Brian Ottis

When thinking about draining rice, RiceTec hybrids are really no different than other varieties. The more important considerations are soil and field type, and field size. In some areas, zero-grade rice production is becoming more popular. In this type of system, typically growers can drain much earlier than on graded, or sloped fields, mostly because of poor or very slow drainage. In this case, the ground will stay moist for a much longer period of time, not causing a stressful situation for the rice and hopefully allowing the ground to dry enough so that harvest is not too messy. In the case of sloped fields, the biggest consideration should be soil type and stage of growth. A good rule of thumb is as follows. On a silt loam soil, consider draining when the rice kernels in an average part of the field are straw-colored at least two-thirds to three-quarters down the panicle. On clay soils, consider draining slightly earlier. For example, on a sharkey clay on a 2% slope, consider draining when one-half of the kernels are straw colored on a given panicle in an average part of the field.

Draining is certainly not a perfect science, at least not yet. In most cases, growers have become comfortable draining on a specific piece of ground. However, if you are in the camp that is accustomed to harvesting at low moisture levels, consider draining slightly earlier in order to get into the field when moisture is between 18 and 20% to maximize yield and milling quality.



Example of a field that was drained too early.

Harvest Aid Use on Hybrids

Garrison Hardke

When making the decision to apply harvest aids to RiceTec Hybrids, a few general recommendations should be followed. RiceTec recommends harvesting Hybrid rice at or around 18-20% moisture in order to preserve milling quality and maximize grain retention. With this in mind, deciding to apply desiccants such as Sodium Chlorate should be carefully planned to avoid over drying of the grain and loss of quality. Weather conditions, variety maturity, and harvest efficiency should all be calculated to limit grain exposure after application. The general recommendation for Sodium Chlorate is to apply 3-6 pounds of active ingredient per acre at or below 25% moisture with expected harvest in 3-5 days. For more information, feel free to contact the Technical Service Representative in your area.

Ratooning Rice at Second Crop Farms

Ratoon Rice is the rice produced from the stubble that re-grows after the main crop is harvested. Ratoon rice production is typically only conducive in the gulf coast region of the rice belt, though some farmers in the Mississippi delta have occasional good results. Many farmers have found that Hybrid Rice is a good tool that helps them maintain and increase ratoon yields on their farms. One of these farmers is Ross Hebert of Abbeville, Louisiana. Ross is a 3rd generation rice farmer who has been farming for 14 years. Ratoon rice production is such an important aspect of his farming operation the farm name is “Second Crop Farms.”

Although the main crop remains the primary focus of all rice farmers that harvest ratoon rice, decisions are made during main crop planning with both the main crop and ratoon crop in mind. Ross Hebert tries to plant as early as possible in order to get his main crop out sooner, thus maximizing his second crop potential. With hybrid rice, planting date is not as critical as varietal rice, but when considering that yield potential on second crop is much more time sensitive, planting date becomes much more critical. When Ross plants his main crop he already knows going in which fields he will second crop. His goal is to keep the main crop plants as healthy as possible to ensure strong and rapid re-growth after harvest. One way he does this is by holding his main crop flood as long as possible without rutting his fields during harvest to keep the plants from drying out too much.

He manages his second crop with the same intensity of his main crop. As soon as the main crop is harvested, he begins his system of second crop management. Ross says, “Every day we delay fertilizing and flooding, it delays second crop harvest.” He mows the stubble to 8 inches after harvest up to a certain main harvest date after that he lowers his header to about 18 inches. Mowing the stubble increases yield by 500-1000 lbs and increases uniformity of ripening, but also delays second crop harvest by 2 weeks. After the fields are mowed 200 lbs of urea is applied and the field is immediately flooded. If fields are harvested after August 7th, Ross cuts back to 100 lbs of urea in order to speed up harvest. Likewise, regardless of harvest date, he only applies 100lbs of urea to fields that are rutted from main crop harvest in order to mitigate financial risk. Although it is common practice to apply a fungicide to the main crop to protect second crop yields, the RiceTec hybrid disease package has allowed Ross Hebert to maintain 22-23 barrel (81 bushel) ratoon crop yields without the use of fungicides. When asked how Hybrids have changed his second crop production Ross replied, “It comes back like an animal, sometimes the varieties just don’t come back.”



Ross Hebert — Abbeville, LA rice farmer

Ratoon Management

With such an early rice crop this year, Mid-South growers have a rare opportunity to produce a large and potentially very profitable ratoon crop. To avoid delaying the second crop, it is recommended that Mid-South growers apply a maximum of 100 lbs/acre of urea (preferably to dry ground) right after harvest and flood the field back up. Do not flail mow stubble, but lower the draper header to leave stubble approximately 18" high.

Using current economic numbers, a breakeven ratoon crop yield is about 15 bushels/acre, with potential yield of several times the breakeven. This includes fertilizer, pumping costs, and additional harvest cost. This is a relatively inexpensive endeavor given the potential return. Growers who have planted RiceTec’s Clearfield® XP4534 and XP4523 may have the best opportunity as they are not only early maturing, but also ratoon faster than other hybrids and varieties. Here are some tips for success.

- Ratoon crop management should begin immediately after main crop harvest to maximize ratoon crop potential.
- Apply 200 lbs of urea (100 lbs in mid-South) and establish a shallow but consistent flood.*
- Begin to reduce urea rate by 5lbs/day after August 15th harvest date.*
- Flail mowing has been proven to increase ratoon yields by 500-1000 lbs/acre and increases maturity uniformity. Flail Mowing delays ratoon crop maturity by 2 weeks and is not recommended after August 15th main crop harvest or in the mid-South.*
- Semi dwarf hybrids like CLXP4534 and XP4523 usually do not require flail mowing due to position of panicles in main crop, plant height, and minimal vegetative residue behind straw choppers. These hybrids provide superior ratoon crop potential.

**Growers outside of Gulf Coast region may consider applying less nitrogen and not flail mowing to ensure ratoon crop ripening.*

Cullen Minter





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**RiceTec Newsletter
Late Season 2012**

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