

Preflood 2016

Published for the customers of RiceTec, Inc.

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- For BASF Clearfield® System use and stewardship guidelines, visit the RiceTec or BASF website.



Leadership and Innovation Within the Field of Rice

Keys to Success for Preflood Nitrogen

Nick Ragsdell

It is time once again to begin the process of establishing a permanent flood on the U.S. rice crop. One of the most important aspects of this process is pre-flood nitrogen application. As you are making plans, I would encourage you to keep a few things in mind this season. As agriculture professionals, we are also stewards of the land and should always practice the 4R approach to fertility. This is a simple concept of applying the right fertilizer source at the right rate at the right time and in the right place. So, how can we utilize the 4R concept when applying pre-flood nitrogen?

The most common source of fertilizer for this application is Urea (46-0-0) although availability may require the use of other nitrogen sources such as Ammonium Nitrate (33-0-0). When it comes to the rate of pre-flood nitrogen, there seems to be a progressive trend of variability in recommendations. The standard recommendation for RiceTec products varies from 90 to 120 units depending on soil type. Sandy Loam soils typically require only 90 units of N whereas Clay and Silt Loam soils require 120 units of N.

The most important part of this equation, in my opinion, is the timing of this application. Most producers plan to establish flood once the rice has reached the 4-5 leaf stage. I cannot stress enough the importance of applying your pre-flood nitrogen to dry, crusted soil. As many of you know, urea is very volatile and will vaporize quickly if it is applied to damp soil. You could very easily lose 70% of your nitrogen to volatilization if the timing is not correct. It is common practice to use a Urease inhibitor, which can extend the period before volatilization occurs. Flood needs to be established as soon as possible and no longer than seven days if at all possible after application to limit volatilization. The last R in the 4R concept should be self explanatory. Care should be taken to make sure the fertilizer stays where it was intended to be, minimizing runoff/volatilization and maximizing plant uptake.



In conclusion, I would encourage everyone to plan ahead with your custom applicators because I'm sure every one is aware that nearly every acre of rice in the Mid-South was planted and emerged in a small window once again this year. That means everyone is going to want their pre-flood nitrogen and herbicides applied at the same time. I don't have to tell you there aren't enough airplanes in the Mid-South to get everyone's pre-flood chemical and fertilize applications out in two weeks. Remember, timing and dry soil is critical on this application and could cost you a significant amount of yield if not carried out correctly.

RiceTec Return Policy

Brian Graf

With planting almost complete, this is a good time to remind everyone of the 2016 RiceTec return policy. For the 2016 season RiceTec will allow returns up to 10% of your RiceTec purchase as long as the bags or Mini-bulk is unopened.

If you have bags or Mini-bulks remaining, please return those to your local service partner as soon as you can, and please contact your local Ricetec representative as well to make him aware of the remaining seed. With the high demand for RiceTec products this year, there may be an opportunity to transfer the seed to another grower trying to finish his planting season.

All returns must be taken to your local service partner prior to June 15th, 2016 and RiceTec made aware by this date in order to receive credit for the eligible returns.



Also available on our website: WWW.RICETEC.COM



Furrow Irrigated Rice Gains Popularity

Jeff Branson

Furrow irrigated rice is certainly not a new concept in rice production, but with advances in disease packages and herbicide technology, the production practice has many producers taking a new look at the system. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of acres that utilize this system. Annually in the state of Arkansas, furrow irrigated rice accounts for approximately 2% of the acres. Furrow irrigated rice contains a different set of challenges compared to flooded fields, but in fields where a flood cannot be maintained or fields with an abundance of levees, it provides another option to rice producers.

There are several things about furrow irrigated rice that make it attractive. Fewer trips across the field and you do not have to survey, pull, or knock down levees. All herbicide and fertilize applications can now be applied with a ground application. Harvest efficiency increases and not having to cross levees takes a large strain off of your equipment. All of these factors combined make it very appealing, and at first glance it makes you question why we do it any other way. There are several good answers to that question and they begin with three main factors that affect all crops: weed management, fertility management and disease control.

With the residual herbicides we have today, controlling the typical weed spectrum is not difficult. Problem areas in this production system are weeds that you typically do not think about in rice production. Pigweeds are the most prominent and problematic weed, and is not typically an issue in rice production. Without the flood to keep pigweeds under control, they can get away from you quickly. Multiple applications are usually made just to kill pigweeds alone in furrow irrigated rice.

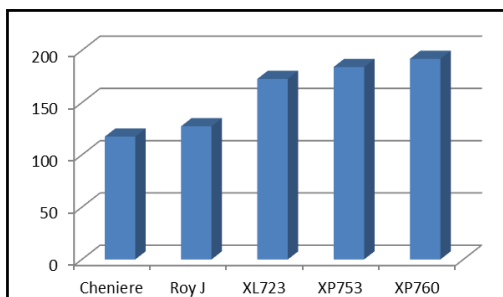


Pigweed infestation in a furrow irrigated rice field located in Arkansas County, AR.

Fertility management can be tricky as well and there are many different opinions on how to fertilize rice under these conditions. No matter how you chose to grow your rice, it will still need nitrogen at the same growth stage whether you are row watering, or flooding the field. Apply nitrogen at the 4 to 6 leaf stage and flush it in immediately after applying. Keeping the soil as wet as possible for the first couple of weeks after applying fertilizer minimizes nitrogen loss. If the crop begins to run out of nitrogen and becomes a pale green or yellow color before the last application of nitrogen is scheduled to be applied, it is more beneficial from a yield potential standpoint to feed the crop as soon as possible.

Another issue within this production practice is disease. Disease control can destroy the yield potential of any furrow irrigated rice field unless you chose to plant RiceTec products. The disease package offered by RiceTec is second to none and is the only way to protect your investment in furrow irrigated fields. Blast thrives in situations where rice plants are stressed due to lack of water. Multiple fungicide application will be required to minimize the yield lost in conventional fields, or you can plant any RiceTec product and know you are protected.

The yield trial shown was conducted in 2014 in Arkansas County in a furrow irrigated field. This trial illustrates the superior performance of the RiceTec product line compared to conventional varieties in a furrow irrigated system. If you're thinking about trying a field of furrow irrigated rice, be sure to protect yourself with industry leading disease packages along with the yield potential that thousands of rice producers have come to expect from planting hybrid rice.



RiceTec furrow irrigated yield trial conducted in 2014 in Arkansas County, AR. Yield shown in bushels per acre.

Beyond[®] Usage in a Clearfield[®] System

Whitney Jones

With the heavy rainfall we have received this spring throughout the mid-south and gulf coast, Command, Prowl, Facet, and Newpath have all exhibited extremely good control of most grasses. At the same time, with the cool temps throughout the mid south, the rice has been moving along slowly, so some of these chemicals that were applied in March are no longer active in the soil. More than likely there are several escapes of grasses or red rice in many of these fields that will be going to flood over the next couple of weeks.

Beyond herbicide, following an early season Newpath application, is an excellent option when trying to control large grasses and red rice in the Clearfield Production System. The average rate of Beyond herbicide is 5 to 6 ounces per acre and is labeled for 4 leaf rice up to green ring on Hybrids. A 1% crop oil concentrate and >5 gallons of water per acre is recommended by air. Beyond herbicide can also be applied in the flood as a salvage treatment for control of red rice that might have escaped one or two Newpath applications. Make sure at least 1/2 of the red rice plant or grass is exposed when applying in the flood.

PREFLOOD 2016

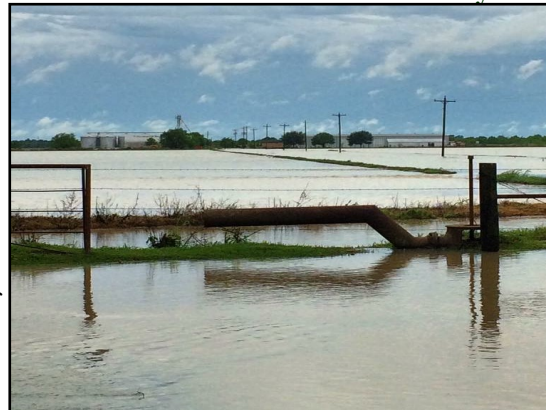
RiceTec Rice Withstands Gulf Coast Flooding

RiceTec strives to deliver the highest quality seed to grow a resilient plant that will produce the most sustainable rice crop on the market. The seed quality and plant resiliency of RiceTec Hybrids have performed well in the Gulf Coast this spring.

The Gulf Coast rice belt has seen its fair share of inclement weather this spring. After experiencing a cooler and wetter March than normal, the crop was forced to survive several record breaking floods across the region in April. And survive it did! There were numerous fields across the region reported to be under several feet of water for ten to fourteen days. Growth stage of the rice crop at the time of the floods was anywhere from freshly planted to early tillering. As if the crop hadn't already been through enough, here was yet another blow from Mother Nature. For the most part, the RiceTec Hybrid fields survived and are recovering well at this time. Sure we had several situations that required a replant, but considering how things looked when the fields were under two to four feet of water that seemed like would never recede, most RiceTec customers in the Gulf Coast are very pleased how the crop came through the floods. The fields that were emerged when the water came up are slightly stretched and some of the leaves are stuck in the mud, but not long after the water went down you were able to see the new growth come from the base of the plant. As for the fields that were just planted, it was slightly more nerve racking since it took a while longer to see the outcome. In most of these fields you were able to row the emerging plants by the time the ground was firm enough to walk on.

Considering all the crop has been through thus far this spring, the hybrid rice crop is off to a good start. A number of fields are being fertilized and flooded at this time with the remainder of the crop catching up quickly. With a little bit of assistance from Mother Nature, the stage is set for a successful 2016 crop year.

Derrol Grymes



Before and after flood pictures taken at Dollins Farm Partnership– Katy, TX. Field is planted with XL723 and was submerged for 5 days. Flooded photo taken 4-18-16 and after flood photo taken on 5-12-16.



Technical Service Testing Update

Craig Hamm

Technical Service small plot and RFYT evaluation trials are quickly closing in on 100% planted. Although the gulf coast and mid-south have had a relatively wet spring, most of the rice was in the ground and off to a good start by mid-April. March planted trials are in or soon going into permanent flood. As a standard protocol, we call for an application of 120 units of nitrogen coated with a urease inhibitor (Agrotain), applied at pre-flood. This will be followed up with a mid-season shot of 30 units of nitrogen on varietal checks and a boot application for the hybrids.

RFYT report cards are showing excellent stands across the majority of the trials with no seedling disease and excellent vigor. We have had a spell of drier weather as of late and fertilizer is going out on dry ground which is a positive note as compared to last year. Overall, the weather pattern in 2016 has been much more conducive for good emergence and rice growth than 2015.

We are off to a strong start and are optimistic that we'll continue to have favorable growing conditions through to harvest. We will be showcasing some of our trials throughout the gulf coast and mid-south starting in July. Look for three new Clearfield hybrids, CLXP766, Gemini 214CL and CLXP769. Each new line has the potential of an improved agronomic portfolio over CLXL745. In addition, we are testing a new conventional medium grain hybrid, XP368M next to Jupiter and continuing evaluation with our high yielding variety Aura 115. Expect field tour dates to be released soon.



Planting date studies being conducted at RiceTec's Alvin, TX station.



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RiceTec Newsletter Preflood 2016

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