

Regional Rice Report

Aug.

2010

Harvest Update

Early Yield Reports for CLEARFIELD® Varieties are Promising

The 2010 rice crop has now turned into a rush to harvest for growers across the southern rice belt. Latest reports indicate a full blown effort with growers trying to get this crop out of the field as quickly as possible. Yields vary overall and it's evident that this crop, although significant in total acres planted, will probably not break any yield records. Extreme temperatures, disease pressure, and now remnants of a tropical depression in Louisiana continue to impact production this season. Rice prices are also lower than expected and must improve for growers to be profitable at year end.

This crop continues to be a challenge, but Horizon CLEARFIELD® varieties, which were planted on more than a million acres this season, are again proving to be "best on the farm." New offerings such as CL111, CL142-AR and CL261 are establishing themselves as welcome additions to the Horizon portfolio. Yield performance of CL151 continues to demonstrate why this variety is an excellent alternative to CLEARFIELD hybrids, with growers reporting tremendous yields in many areas.

LOUISIANA

The Louisiana crop is coming off quickly with some disappointments, as growers had high hopes of repeating record yields from 2009. We have many reports of 2010 yields in the 50 to 60-barrel range with CL151 and it remains impressive. Growers have replaced quite a few hybrid acres with CL151 due to economics and it continues to meet expectations there. CL111 yields have not been as consistent as the CL151 yields with several reports of 48 to 52-barrel range. Though CL111 first crop yields were a little lower than expected, the ratoon crop is off to a good start and the variety usually performs well here. Mills continue to be very interested in CL111 due to its excellent grain quality and we remain excited about this for 2011

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8275 Tournament Dr., Suite 255
Memphis, Tennessee 38125
Toll Free: (866) 237-6167
Phone: (901) 818-3070
Fax: (901) 818-3117
www.horizonseed.com



and beyond. CL151 is setting the standard for all varieties in the field and our test plots are showing again that this variety will yield with anything on the farm. We remain optimistic for both of these and Louisiana growers are quite pleased to have these new offerings from LSU.

TEXAS

Texas growers are winding down harvest of first-crop rice and yields are trending lower than expected. Disease pressure, especially panicle blight, was extremely high and weather conditions caused significant yield losses where it occurred. CL111 acres were affected in many areas and while we remain hopeful for this variety due to its grain quality and milling, we also recognize it has susceptibility in the Texas market. Other conventional varieties fared no better, so it makes for a difficult situation for growers as there is nothing that can be done to control panicle blight once it occurs. CL151 yields have been fair to good with reports of yields around 50 barrels in several areas. A tough year for Texas growers but hope remains for second crop potential.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi's harvest is just now reaching its peak with excellent yield reports. This is great news after last season's horrible weather, and growers are making great progress. CL151 yields reported so far are in the high 190's to 215 bushels (dry) with a good many acres to go. Lodging in CL151 is being seen again this year in some areas, but so far the yields are holding up and farmers are pleased with the end results. CL111 has shown its earliness this season by as many as 5 days compared to all other CLEARFIELD® varieties. CL111 yields are running between 185 and 203 bushels and no lodging reported. A pleasant surprise has been some very good yields from CL131 – much better than in 2009. Growers are reporting between 170 and 190 bushels, which is excellent for this variety. CL131 should continue to fit on quite a few acres due to its standability and the fact it can be left in the field at harvest longer than the other CLEARFIELD varieties.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas growers have planted a record 1.78 million acres of rice according to latest reports, with CL151 overwhelmingly chosen as the number-one variety planted. Based on 2010 seed sales, we estimate CL151 acres to be as much as 40% of the Arkansas crop. Early yield reports have been promising. Growers in several areas have already reported numbers exceeding 200 bushels per acre. A grower from Prairie County has confirmed a yield of 253 bu/acre, which is the highest ever for this variety since it was released. The yield potential of this variety continues to show it will be a cornerstone for CLEARFIELD rice growers in the state. Low rice prices mean economics for next season will play a bigger role with seed costs and yield potential really coming into question for growers, and CL151 offers significant advantages over hybrids.

There is also much excitement about the new University of Arkansas lines to be released in 2011. Both CL142-AR and CL181-AR look promising in commercial seed production fields, and we expect to replace quite a few hybrid acres in NE Arkansas with them. CL261 production fields look very impressive in the medium grain areas and harvest should start next week there. Red rice problems in conventional medium-grain fields continue and growers are looking to use the CLEARFIELD system to clean them up.

MISSOURI

Harvest in Missouri is just underway and very little rice has been cut. Some reports have come in from growers who are very pleased with how their CL151 is cutting, but no exact yields have been reported yet. The only true yield reported so far has been a field of CL111 that yielded 189 bu/acre. Expectations for CL151 are high and quite a few growers should get going by the end of August there, with a small number of CL111 acres to be cut prior to this.