



Regional Rice Report

Harvest Update

Sept.

2010

Tough 2010 Crop Comes to Close With Mixed Yield Results

The 2010 growing season has been tough in certain areas to say the least. Excessive heat has affected many crops across the Mid-South, including rice. The lesson learned this year would certainly focus on the benefits of crop rotation, proper soil fertility, planting dates and a mix of varieties and hybrids to manage risks. This has been a very difficult crop and the clear winner for 2010 is Mother Nature.

ARKANSAS/MISSOURI

Growers in Arkansas and Missouri continue to report a wide range of rice yields in all counties. Early planted rice seems to have fared quite well with CL151 being reported as high as 253bu in Prairie County, the highest 2010 confirmed rice yield in the state according to local seed dealers. This shows that even though some fields affected by excessive heat did not perform to expectations, the yield potential of this variety continues to be as good as any variety or hybrid on the market. CL111 performance has been quite good across most acres and demand will increase for 2011. Medium grain growers continue to express the need for CLEARFIELD® technology on their acres. CL261 will be widely available in 2011.

Farmers in North Arkansas and the Missouri Boot Heel continue to report average to excellent yields with CL111 and CL151. CL151 continues to show its yield potential with Missouri growers (165-205bu) where many switched from CLEARFIELD hybrids, and farmers are generally pleased

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where planted early. Later yields have been a bit off (150-170bu) but still acceptable in most cases. Recent CL142-AR yields have triggered significant interest in this release, with yields of 186-205bu per acre. Stalk strength with this variety is outstanding and the height and blast resistance look promising. The yield potential of CL142-AR appears to be in line with CL111 and CL151 giving growers another high yielding variety with excellent standability.

A few so-called “failures” with later planted rice have occurred, with some yields seen at less than 100bu per acre. This is not specific to any particular variety or hybrid as all appear to be affected by nighttime temperatures during pollination. It is very evident that none of the later planted crop has been immune to the heat, and this set the stage for other problems that affected final yields. Among the disease spectrum encountered this season, bacterial panicle blight has especially been a problem for many growers. None of the CLEARFIELD® or public varieties performed as expected in several areas due to this disease, and there is no answer for controlling it. Several reports from Arkansas of non-CLEARFIELD hybrids suspected to have been affected by this disease have occurred this week, and if true this shows no rice seed choice can guarantee immunity from it. It is becoming very evident that fungicides need to be in the budget as Mother Nature continues to find her way with diseases that affect yields no matter what seed choices are made.

Another more troubling issue in Northeast Arkansas and Missouri is the presence of CLEARFIELD hybrid volunteers. This continues to be a major problem according to consultants and growers. Yield and quality reductions have been attributed to this and management is next to impossible due to the sheer numbers encountered. Both CL111 and CL151 were planted on some of these fields and while yields were acceptable, consultants and growers struggled all year with how best to manage the newly planted rice along with volunteers that competed with the crop. This problem continues to grow in scope and size and most are scratching their heads on what to do here.

LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI/TEXAS

Harvest is complete in all of South Louisiana and Texas with reports running very erratic regardless of what was planted. The general consensus relates to heat stress and issues related to night time temperatures and pollination with blanking in the later planted fields reducing yields. Panicle blight has really shown its hand as well in several areas and yields have been affected where this occurred. Ratoon acres are coming along quite well with and South Louisiana growers are watching disease pressure carefully. Many have high expectations on second crop rice and hope that these yields will make up for the shortfalls already seen with the first crop. Recent price improvements have triggered a good many first crop sales to mills and buyers and growers are hoping for better demand moving into the fall.

Harvest in Mississippi and North Louisiana continues with grower reports of between 80-100% completed overall. Many have said this is their earliest crop ever and completely opposite 2009 where weather was such a problem. Yields in the majority of the early-planted acres have been good to excellent, with a significant number of CL151 fields finishing out at or above the 200bu mark (dry bushels.) CL111 reports have been impressive as well, with several growers having seen 190-195bu with this new variety. Lodging in CL151 continues to be a significant problem for some growers, but overall yields have not been affected where harvest is completed. Most report no problems in cutting the down CL151 crop and several have commented “not really an issue” even though lodging occurred. We will continue our research in Mississippi to alleviate lodging in CL151 and already see key issues that can limit this situation at planting.