

Field Report

Weather Impacting Rice Planting Progress Across the South



A recently planted stand of CLJ01, a new Clearfield® jasmine rice variety, near El Campo, Texas.

South Louisiana and Texas

With warm temperatures and the rain last Thursday (March 29), rice is growing very well. The rain was welcomed by everyone in my area. Many farmers were starting to flush, and it allowed them to establish adequate stands and activate pre-emerge herbicides without having to flush everything.

Planting has progressed very quickly, and I would say we are 75 percent to 80 percent planted in all of Texas and south Louisiana. Except for the strong winds, things have been going very well. The wind has been blowing pretty strong for about 10 days now and has made it a little difficult to get some herbicides sprayed on the earlier-planted rice.

We have a good mix of conventional, Clearfield® and Provisia™ rice this year, and applicators are being very cautious when putting out different herbicides. We have had a good year with CL153 in both Texas and Louisiana, with CL153 acres increasing in Texas compared to 2017. I have had several farmers tell me they are impressed with the seedling vigor of CL153, which we also saw and heard about last year. CL111 is once again a big variety in south Louisiana, as farmers continue to count on this variety for its ratoon crop potential.

I've planted three variety strip trials in my area so far and will plant a fourth this week. We have a big chance of rain on Tuesday night, with cool temperatures expected to follow the rain. Some farmers have told me they need another rain but do not want the 45-degree temps that we are forecast to get. These low temps are only going to last for two days, and then we are going to warm back up with another chance of rain on Friday. Once we dry out from these two rains there will be a lot of herbicide going out. Please be careful when switching from Clearfield rice to Provisia rice or vice versa. Take your time and clean out your spray rigs very well. After the excellent start we've had, we don't want injured rice from not properly cleaning spray equipment. Let me know if you have any questions about Clearfield or Provisia rice.

Michael Fruge
District Field Representative
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Mississippi and Northeast Louisiana

Planting started in my territory the week of March 19 and continued until the rain event on March 28, where accumulations ranged from 3 inches to 9 inches depending on location. Planting progress is around 15 percent to 20 percent with some of the earliest-planted rice emerging over the weekend (April 1). As of April 3, farmers were trying to get back in the field so they could get ahead of the forecasted rain that evening and again this weekend.

CL153 has been the most popular of our varieties in my territory, with a good amount of **CL163** being planted as well. The early start we're getting provides an advantage, and I encourage you to plant your varieties as soon as conditions permit. Yield data generally indicates that earlier plantings are indicative of netting higher yield potential. As we progress through planting season and look back at the challenges of last year, in some areas rain put us behind pulling levees and made spraying a challenge that was hard to overcome in some instances. Hopefully, Mother Nature will be more cooperative this go-round, but be as efficient as you can at capturing yield potential through the season.

I want to say thank you to all of our farmer partners for everything you do and wish you the best of luck for the 2018 season. If you have any questions or if there is any way I can assist you, please don't hesitate to call.

Tim Jett
District Field Representative
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Arkansas Grand Prairie

"Rain, rain, go away" seems to be the most fitting tune on the Prairie right now. There was some rice planted the week of March 18, but since then very little has been put in the ground. The extended forecast looks similar to the same pattern that we have been in — dry weather for a couple days and then rain again.

Luckily, we are not late in regard to planting date as we are still in the optimum planting window. It looks like this is going to be another one of those years where we have to plant a little in between rains. Good luck this season and, as always, give me a call if I can be of any assistance.

Garrett Williams
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Northeast Arkansas

The Northeast Arkansas 2018 planting season is underway, and approximately 20 percent to 25 percent of the rice acres have been planted. Most of those planted to this point are Clearfield varieties. According to the University of Arkansas, we are on course with the 2012 planting season as far as dates and percent of acres planted goes. Most of the rice planted has been in the ground approximately 10 days, and with the cooler weather and rain, it has made little to no developmental progress. However, some of the early-planted rice is starting to peep through the seed coat and we are seeing emergence of the

radicle.

We are at least a week from seeing plant emergence on the earlier-planted rice due to the very low nighttime temperatures in this weekend's forecast. With the current weather forecast, I do not see us making much progress with planted acres. Weather looks to be cooler and wet for the near future, with chances of rain scattered over the next few days. There are some high ground and silt loam soils that are dry enough to continue planting, but once the rain hits it should put a halt on planting until the middle of April.

Chase Kagen
District Field Representative
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Northeast Arkansas and Missouri Bootheel

As of April 3, there had been very little rice planted north of Jonesboro. The continuing cool, wet weather makes that a good thing. There was a good chance for at least half an inch of rain on April 3 as well as this weekend. However, when it does dry up, we should still be in the prime window for optimum yields, and considering all the ground work that is completed, a lot of acres will be planted very quickly. It is exciting to have another season underway, and I am optimistic for this year's rice crop. Please call me with any questions regarding seeding rates or variety specifics. Also, for those who are using the new Provisia Rice System, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be glad to work with you or your consultant so that we can ensure this new technology is utilized to its full potential.

Jason Satterfield
District Field Representative
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