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# *Jeff Davis Rice Talk*

News and information for our parish's agricultural producers and dealers

May 2008

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## Electronic Mail

In an effort to reduce publication and distribution costs, we are encouraging recipients to receive this newsletter electronically. Just call in your e-mail address, or e-mail me at [eeskew@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:eeskew@agctr.lsu.edu), and I will add your name to my rice e-mail list.

Also, if you have access to the internet, I recommend that you visit the LSU AgCenter Rice webpage at [www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/crops/rice/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/rice/).

This is an excellent source for up-to-date rice information as well as a library of past presentations, projected costs, etc. If you are interested in other crops go to [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) and click on "Crops & Livestock" on the left side of the page under Topics.

And don't forget to go to the Jeff Davis Parish website at [www.lsuagcenter.com/parish/jeffdavis/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/parish/jeffdavis/) for past copies of this newsletter and other agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development news.

## Crop Update

As of April 30, Jeff Davis Parish was approximately 98% planted and Allen Parish was right at 95%. The other parishes in Southwest Louisiana are running in the same percentages.

Needless to say, April has not been real good to us. There has probably been more days in April with colder temperatures than in March. I think three out of four weekends brought cold fronts that lasted until Wednesday or Thursday of the following week. When you add all these days up and count the amount of heat units (DD50) available for the rice plants, you can see that we were short. The effect on the rice crop was a slowing down of growth and a delay in herbicide applications. The good thing is that when we did warm up for several days in a row (60° nights, 80° days) the rice plants did respond. Hopefully, as we get into May, the crop will take off.

Back in early April I was asked about rice acreage increases expected for 2008. At the time I was fairly conservative and felt we would see a 4% - 7% increase in acres in Jeff Davis and Allen, and the rest of Southwest Louisiana. This was based on visits with dealers and farmers, suggesting that some farmers who had not planted very much in the last couple of years were getting back into production. However, as we go into May, there are quite a few acres that are being prepared to plant, with most of these acres coming out of crawfish. No doubt, high rice cash prices, high crawfish expenses, and the lack of available soybean seed are triggering this increase.

We may actually experience a 10-12% increase when all the figures are in.

The new Farm Bill seems close to reality (as of April 30). The question now is will President Bush sign it into law. Even if he does, it is apparent that the current farm bill provisions will be in effect for the 2008 crop.

Soybean planting is beginning, and it looks like we will see another increase here as well. All of this is good for agriculture in Southwest Louisiana. We have plenty of moisture to plant and with a good weather break, will see a large soybean crop planted this year.

What looked like a good wheat crop last fall may not turn out to be so great this spring. We have experienced a lot of rain since the first of the year (19.37" year-to-date compared to 17.00" normal) and wheat is a crop that doesn't do well with excessive moisture. We would be better off if it did not rain again until the wheat was out of the field.

Spring pastures are back, and even though fertilizer prices are high, fertilization with a basic fertilizer is critical this early in the season. Remember – forages are your crop and the cattle are the means to harvest it. Cattle prices have eased back up, so hopefully there will be some profit to be made when calves are sold.

## Mid-Season Weed Control

Mid-season weed control in rice is a common practice for most, if not all, rice producers. The use of herbicides at this time is either a planned use made at the beginning of the season, or a salvage application because of weed escapes from previous herbicide applications. Weed spectrums in a field do not drastically change from year to year, so it is important to know the field history. This will help in planning your early season weed control program, and also help in deciding your mid-season program if that is your approach.

Typically, 2,4-D has been the standard mid-season herbicide since its introduction to the rice industry. Jointvetch (curly indigo), hemp sesbania (coffee weed), alligator-weed and duck-salad were, and still are, the primary targets of this herbicide. Compared to others, it is cheap and very effective against the species listed. The major problem with this chemical is the drift and volatilization capabilities. Gardens and ornamentals are very susceptible to 2,4-D drift, as are soybean. When using 2,4-D near residential areas, use extreme caution to prevent homeowner complaints against agriculture. Also, be aware of the agronomic crops your neighbor is

growing so as to prevent damage to his crops as well. 2,4-D is labeled to be used from the first green ring up to the second green ring. Earlier or later applications may result in rice injury. Also, be sure there is a light flood on the field to prevent the roots from coming directly in contact with the chemical.

Another reason for many mid-season herbicide applications is to control annual grasses that have escaped from earlier herbicides, or grasses that are not controlled with the earlier choice of herbicides. These applications are sometimes referred as “salvage” or “spot treatments.” Barnyardgrass and fall panicum are the major grass species targeted in these applications. Clincher and Regiment are the two most popular choices. Clincher is a grass-only herbicide and gets good results on fall panicum, barnyardgrass and sprangletop. Regiment, controls barnyardgrass, but has little to no activity on fall panicum and sprangletop, but will control broadleaves such as smartweed, joint vetch, hemp sesbania and ducksalad.

Red rice escapes in Clearfield varieties present a unique problem, in that only one herbicide is labeled. Beyond herbicide is recommended to control these escapes and is encouraged. A late application of Beyond will keep red rice from cross-pollinating with the white rice variety and creating a Newpath-resistant strain of red rice. If you find Newpath and Beyond are not controlling red rice, you may have already reached that point of herbicide resistance and you need to begin managing this weed in the off season.

The most important point in weed management is to control weeds early in order to eliminate competition with your crop. However, there are many factors that influence this timing which results in less than optimal control. When that happens, it is necessary to come back over the top, but the same guidelines apply to this mid-season application as they do for your early season application – know what you have and tackle it as early as possible.

### **Newpath, Glyphosate Drifts**

Newpath and glyphosate drift can be severe on conventional rice varieties early in the season.

Newpath will cause a stunting of conventional rice plants. It usually takes about two weeks to see real good visual symptoms. The older leaves will be somewhat yellow, the emerging leaves will be rolled, and new tillers will grow on a fan-like plane. Yield will be reduced.

Glyphosate will show up much earlier, almost within three days. Brown spots will appear on the leaves and new emerging leaves will be tightly rolled. New leaves will later become discolored, with eventual lack of tillers and new growth. Significant yield reduction will occur.

Growers need to be aware of what’s planted next to them to avoid any drift problems. If you suspect drift problems, please contact us early in the season when symptoms are present.

### **Fertilization**

Hopefully, all basic and first nitrogen fertilizer has been applied. As we approach green ring in our rice varieties, it is time to apply the balance of our nitrogen fertilizer. Most of the varieties we are growing in Southwest Louisiana will need a total of 120 – 140 pounds of actual nitrogen. If you have done a good job with weed management and timely fertilizer applications early in the season, you should have a very vigorous growing rice plant at green ring, or sometimes referred to as mid-season. The rice plant will have a well established root system and will be better equipped to use the nitrogen applied into the flood water.

However, if for any reason you suspect nitrogen deficiency before you get to the green ring stage, apply your final top-dress. Do not let your crop suffer fertilizer deficiencies. I know expenses are high, but rice is a grass crop and it requires nitrogen fertilizer to make good yields. Do not cut back in this area if possible.

The May 2007 issue of *Rice Research Station News*, produced by personnel with the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station in Crowley, had an excellent article by Dr. Dustin Harrell on nitrogen fertilizer. He discusses the forms of nitrogen available for rice plants, and what happens to nitrogen fertilized when it is applied, either to a dry ground or to flooded fields. You can access this article by using the following steps:

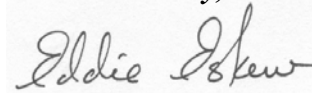
1. Log onto [lsuagcenter.com](http://lsuagcenter.com)
2. Click on “Research Stations” on the upper right side
3. Click on “Rice” for the Rice Research Station
4. Click on “Newsletters” on the upper right side
5. Click on “2007 Rice Research Newsletters” in the middle of the page
6. Click on “Volume+4+Issue+2pdf

### **Rice Insecticide Recommendations**

Included in this newsletter is a copy of the 2008 LSU AgCenter recommendations for the control of rice insects. There is only one product labeled for crawfish fields – Malthion 57 % EC. This product is labeled for stink bugs and leaf miners. If you experience problems with rice water weevil, there are no chemical recommendations. Your only source of control is to drain.

Amyworms in rice/crawfish rotation fields can be controlled with B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*).

*Sincerely,*



**Eddie Eskew**  
**County Agent**  
**Jeff Davis/Allen Parishes**

Visit our website at:  
[http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/parish/jeff\\_davis/](http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/parish/jeff_davis/)

*It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability.*

## LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROL OF INSECTS ON RICE

(Read footnotes for important information and use restrictions)

Insect	Insecticide <sup>1</sup>	Application Rate	Pre-Harvest Interval	Comments
Aphids	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.025 - 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.6 - 2.56 fl. oz. / acre)	21 days	Treat when stand is threatened, aphids are present, and natural control is non-sufficient.
	Mustang Max <sup>3</sup>	0.020 - 0.025 lb A.I./acre (3.2 - 4.0 fl. oz. / acre)	14 days	
	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.28 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Proaxis <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (3.20 – 5.12 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
Armyworms <sup>5</sup>	Methyl parathion 4EC <sup>6</sup>	½ - ¾ lb A.I./acre (1 - 1½ pints prod./ acre)	15 days	Treat when there is one armyworm per two plants. Better results obtained when larvae are small.
	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.025 - 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.6 - 2.56 fl. oz. / acre)	21 days	
	Mustang Max <sup>3</sup>	0.020 - 0.025 lb A.I./acre (3.2 - 4.0 fl. oz. / acre)	14 days	
	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.28 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Proaxis <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (3.20 – 5.12 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Sevin 80S <sup>7</sup>	1¼ - 1⅞ lb prod. / acre	14 days	
	Sevin 4F <sup>7</sup>	1 - 1½ qts. prod. / acre	14 days	
Chinch bugs	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.025 - 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.6 - 2.56 fl. oz. / acre)	21 days	For foliar sprays: Flood fields first to move chinch bugs up onto plants and increase exposure.
	Mustang Max <sup>3</sup>	0.0165-0.025 lb A.I./acre (2.64 - 4.0 fl. oz. /acre)	14 days	
	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.28 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Proaxis <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (3.20 – 5.12 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Sevin 80S <sup>7</sup>	1¼ - 1⅞ lb of prod./ acre	14 days	
	Sevin 4F <sup>7</sup>	1 - 1½ qts. of prod. /acre	14 days	

“(Table continued)”

Grasshoppers	Methyl 4EC <sup>6</sup>	½ lb A.I./acre (1 pint/acre)	15 days	Use higher rate if most grasshoppers are large in size.
	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.025 – 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.6 – 2.56 fl. oz/acre)	21 days	
	Mustang Max <sup>3</sup>	0.020 – 0.025 lb A.I./acre (3.2 – 4.0 fl. oz/acre)	14 days	
	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.28 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Proaxis <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (3.20 – 5.12 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
Rice leaf miners	Malathion 57% EC <sup>7</sup>	1.56 lb A.I./acre (2½ pints/acre)	7 days	Apply when eggs and larvae are abundant on seedling rice and/or when stands are being reduced to less than 15 plants per square foot.
South American rice miner	None			Avoid planting late, particularly in areas known to be prone to severe infestation such as those in coastal areas in Cameron, Jeff Davis and Vermilion parishes.
Rice stink bugs	Malathion 57% EC <sup>7</sup>	0.6 – 0.9 lb A.I./acre (1 – 1½ pints/acre)	7 days	Scout in the morning for best results. Treat when there are 30 stink bugs per 100 sweeps during first two weeks of heading. Treat when there are 100 stink bugs per 100 sweeps later until two weeks before harvest.
	Sevin 80S <sup>7</sup>	1¼ - 1⅞ lb prod./acre	14 days	
	Sevin 4F <sup>7</sup>	1 – 1½ qts. prod./acre	14 days	
	Methyl 4EC <sup>6</sup>	¾ lb A.I./acre (1½ pints/acre)	15 days	
	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.025 – 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.6 – 2.56 fl. oz/acre)	21 days	
	Mustang Max <sup>3</sup>	0.0165–0.025 lb A.I./acre (2.64 – 4.0 fl. oz/acre)	14 days	
	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.28 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Proaxis <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (3.20 – 5.12 fl oz/acre)	21 days	

“(Table continued)”

Rice water weevil (adults) <sup>9</sup>	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.025 – 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.6 – 2.56 fl. oz /acre)	21 days	Check 10 locations every 3-4 days. Treat when adults are present or fresh feeding scars are observed and when conditions are favorable for egg-laying (i.e. water is present or will be present soon). Scout again beginning 5-7 days after application. More than one application may be necessary.  Management of rice water weevils with the liquid insecticide Mustang EW coated on the granular fertilizer urea may result on control of adult weevils but not of larvae. The impregnated fertilizer must be applied when weevil adults and water are present in the field, immediately or within a few days after the establishment of the permanent flood. Applications made ten or more days after the establishment of the permanent flood may not be effective as most larvae are already established in the roots.
	Mustang Max <sup>3</sup>	0.020 – 0.025 lb A.I./acre (3.2 – 4.0 fl. oz /acre)	14 days	
	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.28 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Proaxis <sup>4</sup>	0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (3.20 – 5.12 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
	Mustang EW <sup>3</sup>	0.04 – 0.05 lb A.I./acre (3.4 – 4.3 fl. oz/acre)		
Rice water weevil (eggs) <sup>8</sup>	Dimilin 2L <sup>9</sup>	12 – 16 fl. oz. (Drill seeded; dry seeded; or water seeded, delayed flood rice)  8 fl. oz + 8 fl. oz. (water seeded, pinpoint flood, or continuous flood rice)	80 days	A flood is required. Do not apply if flooding is in progress. <b>For drill seeded; dry seeded; or water seeded, delayed flood rice:</b> Make a single 12 to 16 fl. oz. application per acre per year 2-5 days after permanent flood. <b>For water seeded, pinpoint flood, or continuous flood rice:</b> Apply 8 fl. oz. after permanent flood plus 8 fl. oz. 5-7 days after the first application.
Rice borers (rice stalk borer, sugarcane borer, and European corn borer)	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.03 – 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.92 – 2.56 fl. oz/acre)	21 days	Start scouting at panicle differentiation and early boot stage. Look for early signs of stem borer presence which include orange-tan discoloration around the junction of the leaf-sheath and the leaf blade. This is caused by feeding of young larvae on the inside surface of the leaf sheath. Make application before larvae enters the stalk.
	Mustang Max <sup>3</sup>	0.020 – 0.025 lb A.I./acre (3.2 – 4.0 fl. oz/acre)	14 days	
	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.015 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.54 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	
Rice seed midges	Prolex <sup>4</sup>	0.015 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre (1.54 – 2.05 fl oz/acre)	21 days	Check fields for damage during first week after planting. If stands are being reduced significantly (less than 15 plants per square foot), drain and replant if necessary.
	Karate Z <sup>2</sup>	0.03 – 0.04 lb A.I./acre (1.92 – 2.56 fl. oz/acre)	21 days	

“(Table continued)”

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<sup>1</sup>Insecticides **are not** listed in order of effectiveness and/or preference.

<sup>2</sup>**Karate Z:** Do not use treated rice fields for the aquaculture of edible fish and crustaceans. Do not release floodwater within seven days of application. Do not apply more than 0.12 lb A.I./acre/season. Do not apply as ultra-low volume (ULV) spray. Karate-Z can be safely used when propanil products are being used for weed control. Do not exceed 0.12 lb A.I./acre when Karate is used in addition to Prolex or Proaxis in a single season. When used for the control of borers, must apply before larva bore into plant stalk.

<sup>3</sup>**Mustang Max and Mustang EW:** Do not use treated rice fields for the aquaculture of edible fish and crustaceans. Do not release floodwater within seven days of application. Do not make applications less than seven days apart. Do not apply more than 0.10 lb A.I. (16.0 fl. oz.)/acre/season. Do not apply as ULV spray.

<sup>4</sup>**Prolex/Proaxis:** Do not use treated rice fields for the aquaculture of edible fish and crustaceans. Do not release floodwater within seven days of application. It can be used safely when propanil products are being used for weed control. Do not exceed 0.06 lb A.I./acre when Prolex or Proaxis (either product alone) are used in a single season. Do not exceed 0.12 lb A.I./acre when Prolex or Proaxis is used in addition to Karate in a single season.

<sup>5</sup>Flooding is effective for armyworm control if plants are sufficiently developed.

<sup>6</sup>**Methyl 4EC:** Do not use within 14 days of applying propanil.

<sup>7</sup>**Sevin (carbaryl):** May kill shrimp, crabs, and crayfish. Do not use Sevin within 15 days before or after application of propanil; up to two applications per crop but not more often than once every 7 days.

**Malathion 57% EC:** Do not use malathion within 15 days of applying propanil. Applications may not be made around bodies of water where fish or shellfish are grown or harvested commercially.

<sup>8</sup>To minimize losses from the rice water weevil, plant as early as reasonable and delay flooding as long as possible.

**Dimilin 2L:** Do not use treated rice fields for the aquaculture of edible fish and crustaceans. Use at least 5 gallons total volume per acre. Do not disturb flood for at least 7 days after application. Do not release floodwater within 14 days of application.

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**WARNING:** Always read the label for additional information. Re-entry times for workers entering treated fields should be strictly observed. Be sure to check the label for this information.

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## RICE INSECT CONTROL IN RICE/CRAWFISH ROTATION FIELDS

Insect	Insecticide	Application Rate	Pre-Harvest Interval	Comments
Armyworms	<i>B.t. (Bacillus thuringiensis)</i> <sup>1</sup>	½ lb A.I./acre	0	Treat when there is one armyworm per two plants. Flooding is effective for armyworm control if plants are sufficiently developed.
Rice leaf miners	Malathion 57% EC <sup>2</sup>	1.56 lb A.I./acre (2½ pint/acre)	7 days	Apply when eggs and larvae are abundant on seedling rice and/or when stands are being reduced to less than 15 plants per square foot.
South American rice miner	None			Avoid planting late, particularly in areas known to be prone to severe infestation such as those in coastal areas in Cameron, Jeff Davis and Vermilion parishes.
Rice seed midges				Water Management. Check fields for damage during first week after planting. If stands are being reduced significantly (less than 15 plants per square foot), drain and replant if necessary.
Rice borers (rice stalk borer and sugarcane borer)				Plant as early as reasonable.
Rice stink bugs	Malathion 57% EC <sup>2</sup>	0.6 – 0.9 lb A.I./acre (1 – 1½ pints/acre)	7 days	Scout in the morning for best results. Treat when there are 30 stink bugs per 100 sweeps during the first two weeks of heading. Treat when there are 100 stink bugs per 100 sweeps later until two weeks before harvest.
Rice water weevil				Water Management. Two to three weeks after permanent flood, sample for rice water weevil larvae. If populations are 3 medium to large larvae or 5 small larvae per core, drain the field and allow the field to dry two to three weeks. (This allows soils to dry to the point of cracking). To minimize losses from the rice water weevil, plant as early as reasonable and delay flooding as long as possible.

<sup>1</sup>*Bacillus thuringiensis*: There are several formulations on the market. Follow label directions.

<sup>2</sup>Malathion 57% EC: Do not use malathion within 15 days of applying propanil. Applications may not be made around bodies of water where fish or shellfish are grown or harvested commercially.

**WARNING: Always read the label for additional information. Re-entry times for workers entering treated fields should be strictly observed. Be sure to check the label for this information.**

“(End of Guide)”