

# Evangeline Ag News

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

March - April 2008

## LSU AGCENTER HOME PAGE

Those of you with Internet capability may want to bookmark the following site for your use during the year: [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com). From this site you may access the commodity pages including the rice and forages home pages. These contain valuable information for our rice and beef cattle producers. Other interesting sites can also be found on the AgCenter home page dealing with all aspects of agriculture, animal science, horticulture, and many other topics.



## RICE SEEDING RATES

A satisfactory stand is the first step in a successful rice crop. Amount of seed necessary to do this depends on the type of seeding system. Most Evangeline producers water plant their rice. Some producers may drill or even broadcast dry in other systems.

Regardless of the seeding system used, the desired plant stand remains the same: **Optimum stand is 10-15 plants per square foot** and the **minimum stand is 6-8 plants per square foot**. Rice seeding rates are also variable if you are planting a conventional variety or one of the hybrid rice varieties. This will affect stand count as well as seeding rate at planting.

Stands can be too thick as well as too thin. Since rice can tiller or stool one plant can produce several head-forming shoots. This is why a

satisfactory stand can be produced from a low number of plants and it is also why you can have too many plants. Stands that are too thick almost certainly will lead to more disease pressure and also may make the field more susceptible to lodging.

Planting on the basis of seeds per acre to obtain the desired plant population is more accurate than planting pounds per acre. For example, 90 pounds of Bengal will contain fewer seeds than 90 pound of Cypress or Cocodrie. For conventional varieties, an ideal plant population is approximately 10-15 plants per square foot. Seeding rates of hybrids are much lower than for rice varieties. Growers should consult the hybrid seed representative for guidelines and recommended seeding rates. Under typical conditions, about one-half of the seed survive to produce a plant.

With this in mind the recommended seeding rate for water-seeding or dry-broadcasting is about 90-125 lbs. per acre and for drill-seeding about 60-90 lbs. per acre.

Some considerations include:

- a) Use higher rates when planting early, into cool conditions
- b) Check (on the enclosed table) the # of seed per square foot at different seeding rates.
- c) With a blackbird, or duck problem, use the higher rate
- d) Where seedbed preparation is less than optimum, use higher rate (also if there is excessive vegetation present)
- e) Use the higher rate for other conditions such as low seed germination, slow flushing ability, or other similar problems.
- f) When water seeding best stands are obtained

with pre-sprouted seed, as compared to dry.

## RICE SEEDING DATES

Optimum seeding dates vary by location and environmental conditions on a year to year basis. Rice yields can be affected by planting too early or too late, and also by severe environmental conditions at planting.

Average daily temperature at seeding is crucial in stand establishment and is calculated by adding the daily high and low temperature and dividing by 2. Keep in mind the following: At or below **50 degrees F.** little or no rice seed germination will occur; from **50-55 degrees F.** germination increases but not greatly until **60 degrees F.** Plant survival is not satisfactory until the average daily temperature is **65 degrees F.** Based on this information and seeding date research done by LSU, the **optimum planting dates for Southwest Louisiana are March 15-April 20.**

Extremely early planting can lead to:

**1)** slow emergence and poor early growth due to lack of cold tolerance, **2)** water mold problems, **3)** blackbird, duck and geese damage, and **4)** decreased herbicide activity under cooler conditions.

## SEEDLING WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

We are very fortunate to have for this year, a New publication of sorts, a weed control guide, compiled by Dr. Eric Webster and his Research Group. This is a fold out guide on heavy plasticized waterproof stock, with color photographs on one side, and a schematic diagrammed Key to their identification on the other side. Covers all the main rice weed and grass pests. This publication is available online at :

[www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_live-stock/crops/rice/publications](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_live-stock/crops/rice/publications). The heavy stock waterproof type copies are available at parish county agents offices.

With the increased input costs for your crop this year, and also with many of the herbicides becoming more specific in their control spectrums, It is important to know what weed you are trying to select herbicides to control. This guide is a simple

easy to use tool that should help anyone to identify their weed problems.

## DERMACOR™ RECEIVES SECTION 18 LABEL FOR RICE WATER WEEVIL CONTROL

All of the Southern Rice producing states submitted a section 18 for DermacorX-100, a new seed treatment for rice water weevil control. The active ingredient in Dermacor X-100 is rynaxypyr or chlorantraniliprole. This new class of insecticide is called an anthranilic diamide, and causes rapid cessation or slowing of target insect feeding and muscle paralysis leading to death.

Dermacor X-100 has a very good environmental profile, which state and federal regulatory agencies view favorably. Section 18's have been approved for Texas and Louisiana at this time.

Only authorized seed dealers can treat seed with Dermacor X-100. Dermacor X-100 may be applied to dry rice seed, including conventional, "Clearfield", and hybrid seed varieties, which will be drilled or broadcast. For dry seed broadcast application, the rice seeds must be incorporated into the soil. Dry rice treated with Dermacor X-100 cannot be soaked or pre-germinated before planting.

Also, on the Section 18 label under Environmental Hazards, the following is stated :, "This pesticide is toxic to aquatic invertebrates. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present or to inter-tidal areas below the mean high water mark. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment rinsate.

Research is still ongoing with Dermacor X-100, of which there will more than likely be plots for evaluation and comments at the rice field day later this year.



**IF NEEDED,**  
**DON'T BE AFRAID TO SPRAY TWICE**

*Dr. John Saichuk*



Last year, the issue of weed control in rice was overshadowed by the discovery of the adventitious presence of LL601 in conventional rice. The collective efforts of the rice industry have accomplished in one year what even the most optimistic among us thought would be next to impossible. It is a great example of what can be accomplished when everyone works toward the same goal.

We will still be a little short of seed on some of the Clearfield varieties, but, for the most part, growers will have adequate seed to plant. In Louisiana, we are expecting an increase in both hybrid acreage and Clearfield acreage from last year. For those producers who plant Clearfield varieties, weed control options are much simpler than those planting conventional varieties, especially if they are farming land with red rice problems.

At all of the grower meetings this past winter, Dr. Eric Webster stressed several key weed control strategies. Some of these are things we have been hammering on for years, and they have not changed. One of the most important concepts is to apply herbicides to small, actively growing weeds. This is an old story that warrants repeating because we will encounter growers who try to wait “until every weed emerges” so they only have to spray once. It never works. While they are waiting for weeds to come up, other weeds are becoming too large to be controlled.

Dr. Webster also pointed out the need to choose the best herbicide for the job. My personal philosophy is a step-wise process. First, I select what I think is the best herbicide for the job. Second, if there are two or more herbicides that will work equally well, I select the one where I get the best product support. Choosing the lowest cost

herbicide is the last step.

Another caution listed by Dr. Webster is to be careful when using reduced rates of herbicides. I’ve said before that reduced rates work best when the weeds are small, conditions are perfect, and you are lucky. I’m not against reducing rates when I am confident we can control the weed in question, conditions are ideal and the herbicide is going to be applied immediately.

When over-the-top herbicides were introduced in soybeans many years ago, we learned quickly that many of the grass control materials and broadleaf control materials could not be mixed without a loss of control. We are experiencing similar antagonism problems with some of the herbicides we use today. I am reluctant to mix anything if the weed spectrum contains any difficult-to-control weeds.

I think nothing is saved by trying to spray only once if another application is required to come back to clean up a sloppy job. Two applications may be more economical than one if both work well.

The emphasis on reduced tillage over the past several years has been good in most instances. However, one of the consequences of reduced tillage is the encouragement of the development of perennial weeds. Because these weeds are usually poor seed producers, and their seeds often have low viability, they survive by producing rhizomes or stolons or other modified plant parts from which new plants can originate. Tillage is especially effective in destroying these vegetative plant parts.

Something new for this year is a weed control publication by Dr. Webster and his group that has color plants of a number of weeds on one side and a key to their identification on the other side. This publication is available on line at [www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/crops/rice/Publications](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/rice/Publications). It is also available in limited quantities through the county agent’s office.

As herbicides become more specific in their control spectrum, it is important to know the weed you are trying to control. This is a simple, easy-to-use tool that should help in that regard.

## **DD-50 RICE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service will offer the DD-50 computerized rice management program once again as a service available through our office for the 2008 crop. If you have Internet capability you may also download this program from our LSU AgCenter Rice Home page, (from the Internet address given earlier).

The key to this program is identifying the date of emergence (DOE) for each particular field of rice. For water-seeded rice DOE is when half of the plants are  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches tall. For dry-seeded rice, DOE is when half of the plants are emerging through the soil surface.

From this date and based on the variety and on averages of 30 year weather summaries, computer predictions will be made on different stages of growth and management procedures for that field. Predicted dates will be given for draining for straight head, checking for green ring, 2 mm panicle, early boot, heading, and expected harvest date. This is an effective tool which will help you in management of each field you plant, and best of all, this is a FREE service.

To enter fields, (as many as you have) in the DD-50 program, simply call our office at 363-5646, and speak with Susan, my secretary and give her the following information: your name and address; and on each field – **field name, # of acres, variety, water or dry plant, and Date of Emergence** for that field. From this you will be mailed a computer printout on each field with the growth stages listed by dates in the order in which they will occur. Also attached will be a printout matching growth stages and expected management practices to be carried out for each.

If you have any questions, contact me at 363-5646, 230 Court Street in Ville Platte.

**Keith Fontenot**  
County Agent, Evangeline Parish



**LSU AgCenter  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Evangeline Parish  
230 Court Street  
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