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## **RICE CLEAN UP**

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It will soon be time for pre-flood clean up in rice. Pre-flood clean up falls into two categories- easy and disaster. When everything works right, you should wind up at flood time with small, easy to control weeds. With Command they'll likely be broadleaf weeds and possibly sedge. But check first- every herbicide fails on occasion and big grass is the toughie.

Broadleaf weeds can be controlled cheaply. Blazer, Storm, Aim and Grandstand are good options. However, because Command releases nutsedge, Permit and or Londax probably need to be part of that equation. There is lots of jockeying going on between Permit alone versus a Permit + Londax tank mix. Permit is the better nutsedge product and Londax is the better aquatic herbicide; but in the pre-flood scenario Permit alone and a Permit + Londax mix have been very similar.

A propanil product is another part of the equation. First of all, Grandstand benefits from the addition of a quart of Stam or other propanil product. Secondly, if you have some small, escaped grass a full 3 or 4 quart rate of propanil is needed. Is there a difference in all of the Stam and propanil formulations? Four years out of five we see no differences between any of those products. In one year out of five Super Wham and Arrosolo will do slightly better than the straight propanil products. But beware- these products don't all sell at the same price. We don't want to be "selling" anyone's product over another- but it is worth mentioning that Arkansas farmers used a fair amount of Duet last year. This herbicide is a pre-pack of propanil and Londax which makes it a good choice when Command has released a little bit of everything.

As far as disaster clean ups, technically, there are no labeled choices. If you have had a complete failure and have giant grass a lot of herbicides won't work at all. Although some treatments usually will control large grass- there is an increased risk that they will fail too. And finally, salvage treatments don't restore the damage that has already been done to the crop's yield potential- even if they do kill the weeds.

Nevertheless- there are some commonly used "rescue" treatments: The first is a full 33 lb/A of Ordram granules. Again, we need to distinguish between clean up and rescue. Ordram is great for a few big escaped grasses. It isn't a cure for a complete mess. Ordram kills grass slowly. In fact, a common description is that Ordram doesn't kill grass, but instead, stops it's growth so that the rice can keep going and cover it.

Another common rescue treatment is a full rate of Facet plus a full rate of a Stam-type product. This is a high-priced treatment, and we've seen it fail- BUT it usually works. There might be an argument for using Arrosolo over a straight propanil- which actually makes it a Facet + Propanil + Ordram application.

In another year or two, there will be a new clean up treatment named Regiment; which does a good job on large barnyardgrass and also controls most broadleaf weeds. As with the other products, the company wants it used for clean up as opposed to rescue- but it will probably be used for both.