

Rice, July 28, 2001

CONSISTENCY AN ISSUE WITH NEW RICE TECHNOLOGY

Andy Kendig and Anthony Ohmes

Weed Specialists

MU Delta Center Commercial Agriculture Program

Recently, Dr. Ford Baldwin, Dr. Ken Smith and I toured each others rice weed control plots. Our goal was to increase our understanding of how all of the great new technology will work. Our biggest conclusion is that the new stuff is not as consistent as we would like it to be.

As we traveled from Southeast Arkansas to Central Arkansas and finally on to Southeast Missouri, one herbicide would look good in one person's plots and look bad in another person's plots. We won't mention names but every herbicide failed at one location and shined at another.

In defense of the newer herbicides, consistency is an issue with all rice herbicides. Our most consistent program- propanil + Facet, is looking fairly mediocre in our plots this year. In fact, the great majority of our plots at the Missouri Rice farm are looking grown up- even though a couple of weeks ago, most of them were looking great. Portageville is the opposite, some single-shot treatments, which are typically destined for failure are actually holding up.

So far this year, we've been reminded that Command has some weather sensitivity and is weaker when things are very dry. This year growers also got to see what we've been seeing with Ricestar. It's a great treatment for small grass growing in rice next to cotton or beans. But if the grass got any size, you needed to use it's unsafened cousin Whip.

We will be emphasizing rice weed control upcoming field days at both the Delta Center and the Rice Farm. These field days will be excellent chances for you to see first hand how all of the new products are performing.

There are some older rice herbicides which are much less consistent than the new products, however, there are some older ones that are a bit better. Unfortunately, Roundup Ready soybeans have raised the bar of what we like to see from new herbicides. These new weed control systems will be welcome additions; however, rice will remain a timing-sensitive crop and Weeds will still get the upper hand from time to time.