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## **RICE WEED CONTROL: OLD STUFF RULES, NEW STUFF DROOLS**

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We've been testing many new options for weed control, and many have just become available for producers. While these products have uses and niches, they aren't revolutionary. In fact, they work best when they are integrated into traditional weed control programs.

Propanil plus Facet, early POST continues to be our best treatment for barnyardgrass and coffeebean. It isn't the cheapest program, it isn't perfect and it doesn't control every rice weed, but it is usually one of the best.

Command is still the "new" grower standard. With good activation, it can give Facet-like grass control at Prowl-like prices. The key with Command is close scouting. Some years, the grass control is weak, but most growers feel Command is worth the money. Flushing immediately after planting can improve Command's consistency. A second, postemergence, trip for nutsedge and broadleaf weed is usually required. But be sure that grass clean up isn't needed too.

Propanil plus a residual herbicide is still a good choice. We already mentioned Facet, but Prowl, Bolero or even Command bring residual benefits to propanil. Command + propanil cannot be applied aerially; however, ground application at the 1- to 2-leaf rice stage has worked very good in our plots.

In recent years, sequential Arrosolo applications have beaten sequential propanil. The Arrosolo may or may not offer residual activity, but it may be a bit better in cooler conditions. The BASF folks have been pushing Facet plus Prowl delayed preemergence. Facet and Prowl cover several weaknesses for each other: Prowl gives sprangletop and dry-weather performance to Facet and Facet gives broadleaf control, postemergence activity and wet-weather performance to Prowl. The biggest drawback to this program is the delayed preemergence timing; which can be difficult to accomplish with ground equipment. You have to wait until after a flush or significant rain before applying Prowl, and after the water hits the field, grasses aren't far behind.

Regarding all of the new materials, Clincher, Newpath, Regiment and Ricestar, they work best when they are integrated into traditional programs. Clincher and Ricestar are being evaluated as tank mix partners for Facet, Regiment works well following Command and Newpath benefits when it is used with propanil and other traditional broadleaf herbicides.