



## **Report for October 16, 2009**

### **District 8, Texas – Derrol Grymes, Technical Services – [dgrymes@ricetec.com](mailto:dgrymes@ricetec.com)**

The ratoon crop harvest is off to a slow start in the Texas Gulf Coast. Early indications are suggesting a good second crop yield. There has been a report of XL723 ratoon crop yielding in the low 20 barrel range on non flail-mowed stubble in a contour levee field. We are hearing a lot of reports of fields being drained and harvest should really get rolling in the next two weeks.

We kicked off the 2009 RiceTec hybrid ratoon crop harvest by holding a ratoon crop field day on Mr. Des Woods' farm near Katy, TX on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. We had a very good crowd of producers from Texas and Louisiana along with representatives from several of the Ag industries in the area. Mr. Woods manages his first crop and flail mows all of the stubble with the intention of maximizing his primary and ratoon crop potential. The entire ratoon crop we looked at on his farm looks very good with excellent yield potential. Along the field tour, we had a very good exchange of information between RiceTec personnel and the producers as well as between the producers from the different areas. Once again, we at RiceTec would like to thank Mr. Des Woods for hosting the ratoon tour, and we are looking forward to hearing of continued excellent hybrid ratoon crop yields.

### **District 7, SW Louisiana – Cullen Minter, Technical Services – [cminter@ricetec.com](mailto:cminter@ricetec.com)**

The main crop in South Louisiana has been harvested. We are roughly two weeks out from harvesting 2<sup>nd</sup> crop, with the bulk of the 2<sup>nd</sup> crop harvest beginning in 3 weeks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> crop has improved over the last week. Some fields that got off to a slow start are looking better. Dr. Fernando Correa (RiceTec Plant Pathologist) visited the area recently to take tissue samples in fields that we suspected were hit hard by Cercospera. After analyzing the samples, he found mainly brown leaf spot. High infestations of Brown spot are usually an indicator of fertility problems. In the fields where we found a large amount of brown spot the second crop looked poor. So, when planning for a 2<sup>nd</sup> crop it is important to maintain the overall health of the plant throughout the main crop season. We will be doing some fertility research in the future to assist our customers in managing the main crop for second crop.

**District 6, MS and N Louisiana – Jay Burchfield, Technical Services -**  
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We are still hanging around 50 – 60% harvested in D6. We have only had maybe five days in the field since our last report, so not much has changed. The last yield reports I heard was hanging in the 170 – 190 dry bushels per acre range, so yields seem to be hanging in there. Shattering has not been a problem to this point. With all the rain we have had, we really have not had much wind. Lodging has not been too bad with the hybrids, but we do have some areas it is a problem. A lot of the lodged rice in the area is now sprouting, so we are in need of some sunshine to get the rest of the crop out. The forecast for next week looks promising so hopefully we can get a lot cut next week.

**District 5, SE Arkansas – Jeff Branson, Technical Services -**  
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Approximately 65 % of the 2009 rice crop has been harvested in District 5. Another 4 to 5 inches of rain fell earlier this week, which is sure to cause significant losses in yield and quality of the remaining crop. In some areas, rice that had lodged from last week's high winds and rain has had 2 feet of water over it for the last 2 days. The weather pattern appears to be changing and hopefully we can get the remaining acres harvested quickly.

This has to be one of the hardest years on record for virtually the entire state of Arkansas, as far as producing a crop is concerned. However, reports of record breaking yields with RiceTec hybrids are still coming in from consultants and producers. CL XP746 has yielded greater than 220 dry bu/a on several farms in Chicot County, and even with all the wind and rain it had not lodged.

We were able to harvest one yield trial since the last update. The yield trial in Lincoln County was submerged in flood waters this spring before any of the rice had emerged. Fourteen days later we could start to see the tops of the levees and then finally we could see some green plants floating on top of the water. The stand density was low, but the decision was made to keep the field and not to replant. The growth stage was 2 leaf and the rice was 13 inches long and stuck to the ground. The field made a complete recovery and the RiceTec hybrids provided yields that were 24 to 35 bu/A greater than that of CL 151 and CL 161. Hopefully by the next update harvest will be winding down and I can summarize the yield trials across the district for 2009.

**District 4, Central Arkansas – Whitney Jones, Technical Services -**  
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Not much has changed since my last report two weeks ago, still raining and cool. With sunshine in the forecast for the next few days, we should knock out quiet a few acres. D4 has right around 50% of the rice harvested and most of the hybrid yields are still hanging in the high 180's to the low 200's. I have heard from some farmers that their later planted conventional medium and long grain varieties are not performing very well, drying in the 140's to 150's. On another note, I still have one large strip yield trial left to cut on Dale Hawkins south of Carlisle that will hopefully be harvested in the next day or two. Also, everyone needs to be figuring out which hybrids you want because fall sales will be here before you know it.

**District 3, East Central AR – Kurt Johns, Technical Services –**  
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This wet weather is really old. Yields that I have heard have still been very good, with some very good milling yields. No trials have been harvested in d3 in the last several weeks due to the weather. As a bonus I have seen very little lodged RiceTec Hybrid even with the poor conditions. Most customers are very interested in when we are going to begin sales and are calling daily ready to start ordering.

**District 2, Northeast AR – DJ Shipman, Technical Services -**  
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There has been very little rice harvested in D2 since the last crop report due to several days of rain and cloudy weather. I would estimate that the district is 40 -50 % harvested at this point. The few yield reports that I have heard over the last couple of weeks are still very impressive. I have also been hearing some excellent milling scores. I, like everyone else, am ready to have this crop harvested and this year put behind us. Hopefully we can get a break in the weather and get finished up soon.

**District 1, Southeast MO – Brian Ottis, Technical Services -**  
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We had a couple of days of cutting this week on Sunday and Monday, but it's been pretty dreary ever since. Fortunately, we haven't had any more high winds or downpours that have increased lodging significantly. All the fields are likely going to be rutted up from here on out as we're going to be wet and cool. It's hard to believe we still have over 40% of the crop in the field.

Yields on the later rice are beginning to wane slightly, as is expected when planted in late May. Most reports I'm getting now are in the 175 to 195 bu/A range, with a few fields still going over 200 bu/A. We harvested our second strip trial on Monday on Todd Inman's Farm NW of Poplar Bluff. Winning the trial by a significant margin was the new CLEARFIELD semidwarf, CL XP751, followed by CL XL745. From what I've seen, the CL XP751 has all the features to make it a durable hybrid for the future. Keep your eyes on this one in the coming years.

As always, please visit our webpage at [www.ricetec.com](http://www.ricetec.com), where you can learn more about the latest RiceTec products and keep up to date with management recommendations.