



Monday we finished harvesting our last first crop verification field for 2014. The photo is of the last of the field being harvested. We still have Jeff Davis and Vermilion second crop fields to harvest if weather permits. The results are shown in the table below. Considering the start we had and the amount of rain at the end we are pleased with the outcome. The average this year is 352 pounds per acre lower (green) or 484 pounds per acre lower (dry) than last year without considering second crop in either year. Last year was the best rice production year I have seen in my career and I do not expect another one like it very soon. I hope I am wrong.

Parish	Acres	Variety	cwt/A green	bbl/A green	bu/A green	cwt/A @ 12%	bbl/A @ 12%	bu/A @ 12%
Concordia	23.0	CL111	83.80	51.7	186.2	78.65	48.6	174.8
Evangeline	20.7	CL111	81.10	50.1	180.2	74.83	46.2	166.3
Jeff Davis	42.6	XP 753	100.23	61.9	222.7	92.48	57.1	205.5
W. Carroll	32.2	CLXL756	90.94	56.1	202.1	83.29	51.4	185.1
Vermilion	41.0	Jupiter	81.59	50.4	181.3	76.58	47.3	170.2
Average			88.71	54.8	197.1	82.25	50.8	182.8

I think the results reflect what most growers have experienced this year—surprising yields considering the start, but not as good as last year. Even though we did not have as many days where temperatures hit the mid 90's we had a long stretch of cloudy, humid days with lots of cloud cover and high night time temperatures. The plants have to have sunlight to manufacture starch to fill grains. We just did not have the total hours of sunlight we had last year.

Several years ago I read an article concerning the use of solar energy. In the article a map of the continental United States was shown with lines outlining the areas most suitable for solar energy production. Sunlight may be more intense as you move south in the northern hemisphere, however the total hours of sunlight are less. As you move from east to west rainfall rates decrease which means there is less cloud cover. So it stands to reason the deep south and much of the eastern half of the U. S. was not considered prime territory for solar energy production as the combination of less hours of daylight and more cloud cover limits the ability of plants to convert nutrients into starches which we harvest as grain.

Throw in the high night time temperatures and the issue is compounded because under high night time temperatures plants will use more of the carbohydrates thus have less excess to store.

By this time of the year my phone generally is quiet except for the occasional call to discuss the crop in general. Last week I got a couple of calls about problems worth talking about. The two photographs at the bottom of this page are of Jupiter in northeast Louisiana. The leaf spots are not of concern or at least I do not think they are the major issue. They are the result of Gramoxone drift. The real problem is the lack of grain fill on many of the panicles and the poor quality grain on others. The problem is not straightforward. The field is a 35 acre field in the midst of a block of over 700 acres of Jupiter and the damage is confined to this block and an isolated spot in another field. Adjacent fields have the same leaf spotting from Gramoxone drift but do not exhibit the lack of grain fill.

The field apparently had a serious sedge problem in terms of both population and likely resistance. A very high rate of one herbicide was used in separate applications along with other herbicides targeting the usual variety of weeds. As a consequence of the heavy herbicide load this block flowered about a week later than the rest of the field. This difference in flowering timing may be a vital part of the problem.

The symptoms do not fit the normal symptoms from glyphosate drift, but a very low rate on rice in flowering may have some impact while cause no injury to the adjacent rice that had completed flowering. Or high night time temperatures could have affected this block of rice without damaging the rest.

Dr. Webster and I have discussed it at length. Dr. Groth ruled out disease. The only thing I feel comfortable with is that the heavy herbicide load delayed this block of rice and that delay set it up for injury. The specific cause of that injury is less certain.





The plant shown above and to the right is known as Creeping Burhead or just Burhead or Creeping Water Plantain (*Echinodorus* sp.). It has become an increasing problem in crawfish ponds especially where some form of reduced tillage is practiced. It is a perennial with an extensive root system and none of our traditional rice herbicides work very well on it. These plants were sprayed with a mixture of glyphosate and Sharpen herbicides. The leaves were burned well, but as you can see it is coming back to life.

The top photo illustrates the “creeping” part of its common name. As the long flowering branch extends (it is called a scape) it will eventually lean over and touch soil. Individual plants will form at each node. I also produces large amounts of seed.

The best control measure I have seen and recommended here is cold steel preferably in the form of chisels or shanks to rip it out of the ground. Disking seems to be less effective.

