



Rice Notes

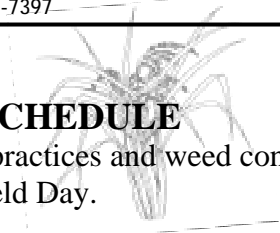
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July 2003

RICE FIELD MEETING SCHEDULE

Field meetings planned for July will focus on alternative cultural practices and weed control. The meeting agendas follow. Also, put August 27 on your calendar for Rice Field Day.



1. JULY 23. TWO STOP TOUR.

- DRILL SEEDED RICE IN A "FALL STALE SEEDBED". 9 AM. JOHN AND J.T. THOMPSON.
This is one of several locations where we are evaluating alternative planting systems for a) control of resistant watergrass, b) possible reduction of herbicide use, and 3) reduction of costs. This 103 acre field was drill seeded into a fall prepared seedbed without spring tillage. Winter vegetation was sprayed prior to seeding and all fertilizer and herbicides were applied postemergence. Rainfall established the stand in this field, while two other nearby fields were flushed up. A very successful field so far. Located in Butte County. Go 4.9 miles north of Highway 162 on Rd Z. Follow the bend east and it becomes Highway 48. The field is on the north side of Highway 48 across from the Thompson shop.
- RESISTANT 'MIMIC' TRIAL. 10:30 AM. GEORGE SWANER.
Several sequentials and tank mixes are compared in a replicated trial at a highly resistant late watergrass site. Regiment + Abolish at 5 leaf rice is working fairly well. Located on County Rd. WW about ¼ mile north of Road 39, on the east side, just east of Bayliss. Dr. Albert Fischer will discuss the trial. **Bring your waders.**



2. JULY 24. 9:30 AM. ONE STOP.

DRY PLANTED RICE. 9:30 AM. BAGGETT FAMILY FARMS.

Also part of the “alternative systems” project, this 58 acre field was planted dry and covered (“false drill seeding”), using flush irrigation and includes Prowl® herbicide as part of the weed control program.

The system shows promise as part of a whole farm weed management program. Key questions are fertilizer management and weed control which are being studied at the site in small replicated plots. Dr. Albert Fischer will discuss the weed control trial. The location is on the west side of Jack Slough Road., 2 miles south of Woodruff Lane, 0.8 miles south of Ellis Road. **Bring your waders.**



3. ANNUAL RICE FIELD DAY—AUGUST 27

The Annual Rice Field Day will be Wednesday, August 27, 2003, at the Rice Experiment Station (RES), near Biggs, CA. The field day is open to all who have an interest in California rice and will feature research in progress at the RES. The Annual Rice Field Day is sponsored by the California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation (CCRRF) and the University of California. In addition, numerous local agribusinesses contribute to the success of the day.

Registration will begin at 7:30 am, followed by a general session at 8:30. The general session will include the CCRRF annual membership meeting, awarding of the D. Marlin Brandon Rice Research Fellowship, and the California Rice Industry Award. Field tours of rice research will commence at 9:30 am. The field day will conclude with a complimentary lunch. Posters and demonstrations of rice research and activities will be in place until after lunch.

The RES is located at 955 Butte City Highway (Hwy 162), approximately 2 ½ miles west of Highway 99, north of Biggs, California.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

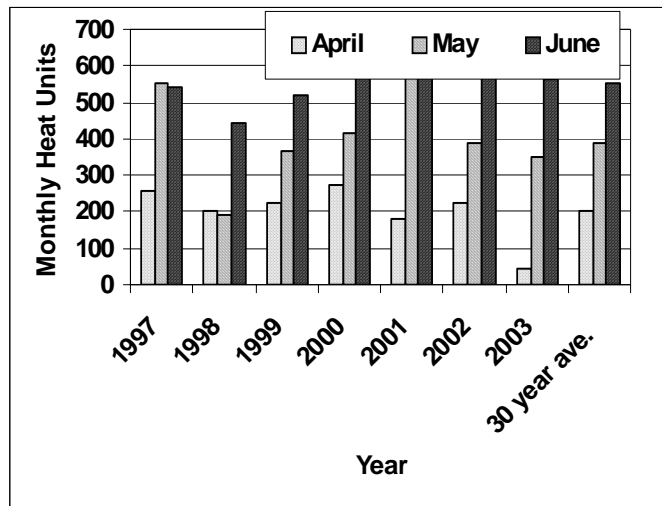
BAKANAE.

Bakanae began showing up in many fields as early as three weeks after planting, seemingly earlier than in the past, and people are wondering if the Clorox treatment worked. Some treated fields had 1 to 1½ plants/foot. While this is higher than desirable, the Clorox appears to be working. However, if you expected 100% control, you will be disappointed. The best control we observed in trials in 2002 gave 85 to 90% control. Because the planting seed used this year was generally contaminated with bakanae, it is reasonable to assume that at least some bakanae will show up in the 2003 crop. After looking at a lot of fields, both treated and untreated, my perspective is that the Clorox treatment is doing quite a bit of good and that the disease level would have been considerably higher if not treated. We are continuing to work on alternatives to the 5%/2 hour soak label for Clorox at four offstation locations. The trials include Clorox at lower levels for 24 hours, plus some other materials, including Maxim, Apron, Nusan and Protegé (Quadrif in a seed treatment form). In addition, we are looking at varietal differences in susceptibility at three locations.

TOPDRESSING.

A lot of fields were planted this season using dry, broadcast fertilizer instead of aqua. I suggest you have a critical look at these fields. Aqua in a band tends to resist nitrification and hangs on longer compared to urea or ammonium salts applied broadcast, particularly where the water was removed for long periods. So, it is important that you critically evaluate your fields for N status. Lab analysis of recently matured leaf blades is effective. But, I recommend you try the Leaf Color Chart which correlates very well with lab analysis. It will give you real time information so you can make topdressing decisions right away. It is easy to use, and with practice, you will get very reliable information. If you need a Leaf Color Chart, give me a call. Be very cautious about topdressing late planted fields which will tend to make them later and may encounter cool weather and increased blanking.

HEAT UNITS.



Heat units for April through June, 2003 are given in the figure above, compared to previous years and the 30 year average. This data is calculated from a long-term Colusa weather station. April, 2003 was the coldest of the years presented, while May and June returned to near 'normal'.