

# Mississippi Crop Situation

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Mississippi State University Extension Service

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## This Weeks Planting Report

### National Agriculture Statistics Services (Mississippi) Crop Progress for Week Ending 4/13/08

Crop	This Week % Planted	Last Week % Planted	Last Year % Planted	5- Year Average % Planted
Corn Planted	71	58	96	83
Corn Emerged	53	42	89	63
Cotton Planted	0	--	3	2
Rice Planted	8	1	20	17
Rice Emerged	2	--	7	4
Sorghum Planted	6	3	14	15
Sorghum Emerged	3	--	4	5
Soybeans Planted	8	3	32	30
Soybeans Emerged	4	1	19	14
Winter Wheat Jointing	91	85	95	93
Winter Wheat Heading	25	4	61	36

## 2008 Insect Control Guides

The 2008 Insect Control Guides are now available. This year we combined the Cotton, Corn, and Soybean Guides into one guide due to many request by the clientele. In the future we plan to continue to add other row crops to the guide for a "one stop" guide for all major row crops. To get a copy see your local extension agent or you may view the document online at [msucares.com](http://msucares.com). The direct link to the guide is: <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2471.pdf>

## Freeze Assessment

### Dr. Erick Larson

**Wheat Freeze Assessment** – Temperatures sustained early Tuesday morning were very near the thresholds documented as capable of producing wheat freeze injury. However, although freezing temperatures extended farther south in Mississippi than last year, temperatures were generally considerably warmer and much shorter in duration than last year in north Mississippi, where many fields sustained severe wheat yield loss.

Wheat sensitivity to freezing temperatures varies depending upon crop growth stage, and early heading stages (the current age of much of our crop) are extremely sensitive. Wheat is most sensitive to freezing temperatures while flowering, about a week after head emergence. Injury can be expected from temperatures around 30 degrees F on heading wheat or around 28 degrees F on wheat in the boot stage, where heads are nearly ready to emerge from within the upper leaf

sheath. The extent of freeze injury will vary depending upon actual temperature in the crop canopy and the duration of freezing temperatures, which can be influenced somewhat by topography, and wind.

Wheat freeze damage cannot be completely assessed for a week or more after the event and is extremely tedious. Damage is likely to differ considerably from head to head, since wheat maturity naturally ranges by a week or more in most fields. Furthermore, damage may vary depending upon floret location in the head. Overall, there are around 10 million wheat kernels per acre to potentially evaluate. For more information about wheat freeze damage assessment, please refer to last year's newsletter:

[http://msucare.com/newsletters/grain/2007/april20\\_2007.pdf](http://msucare.com/newsletters/grain/2007/april20_2007.pdf)

**Figure 1.** Wheat freeze injury can vary from head to head, making evaluation difficult.



**Will corn recover from freeze damage?** The freezing temperatures which occurred Tuesday morning will likely not produce significant damage to most of our corn crop. However, you should check plants for new leaf growth for at least a week, before making any further management decisions. The more undamaged green leaf tissue is present, the higher the potential for recovery, because plants can produce energy via photosynthesis to sustain growth. Also, small plants typically recover better than older plants to early defoliation/dessication. If temperatures warm into the high seventies as forecast over the next several days, this will stimulate quick growth and recovery.

Corn recovery from freeze damage is very dependent upon favorable temperatures and growing conditions following a freeze. Small corn is relatively immune to direct damage resulting from defoliation by freeze or other physical means, because the vital growing point of young corn plants remains under the soil surface, until corn reaches the V6 growth stage (about 12 inches tall – refer to Figures 1 and 2). However, if the seed furrow slice is open, or corn seed was planted shallow, the growing point may be exposed to freeze damage.

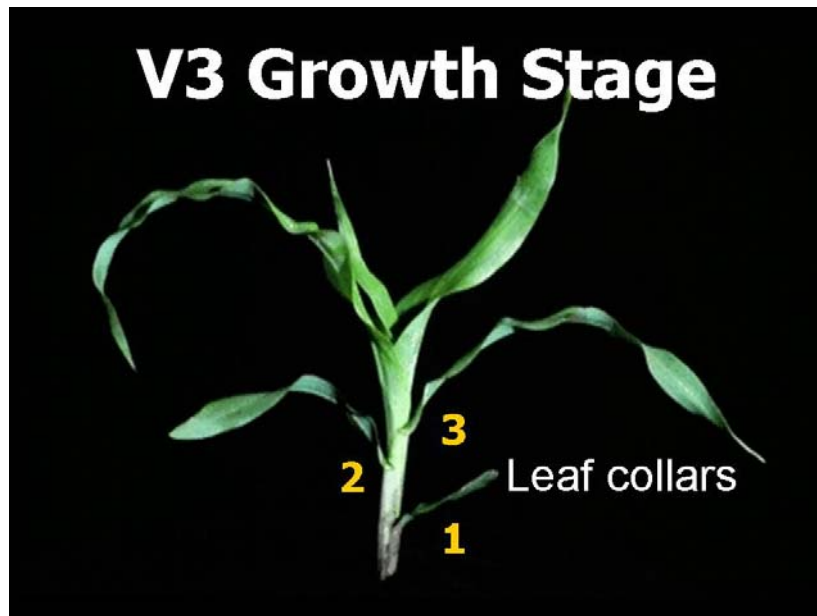
This year's forecast is starkly better than the weather following last year's freeze when cold, cloudy weather were prevalent 10 or more days after the freeze. These 2007 temperatures slowed corn growth to a standstill, regardless of the extent of freeze-defoliation. Daily temperatures did not exceed 75 degrees high and 50 degrees low F for twelve days after the initial freeze in north MS during 2007. Growing degree day (based upon 50 degree F for corn) accumulation during this time was only about 25-45 DD50's, which is equivalent to what is normally collected in 2 to 3 days. Thus, many fields did have substantial stand loss because the

poor growing conditions kept plants virtually dormant for an extended period, during which they had no ability to produce food to sustain life.

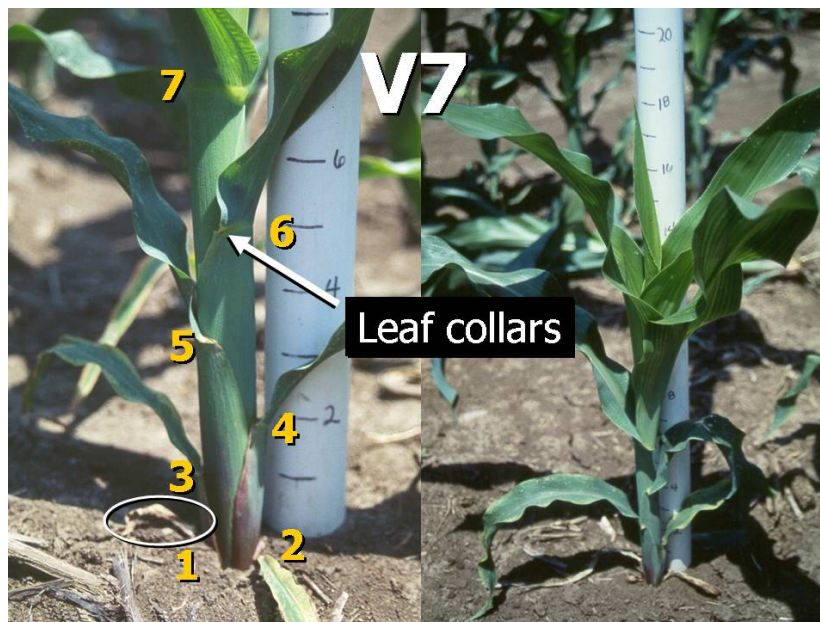
Assessing corn recovery will require monitoring plants daily for new leaf growth **at least a week or more after the last freeze event**. Newly emerging leaves often experience some initial resistance from dead leaves stuck in the whorl, twisting or bending leaves as they attempt to unfurl. The growing point may be evaluated by splitting the stem and observing the pyramid-shaped stalk tissue stacked within the stem.

Crop yield reduction will be primarily dependent upon the degree of stand reduction resulting from injured plants which die from starvation and/or secondary pathogens infecting damaged tissue.

**Figure 1.** V3 growth stage corn plant. V stages are assigned based upon number of completely emerged leaves with leaf collars present. This does not include the leaves in the whorl.



**Figure 2.** V7 growth stage plants showing leaf collars. V7 plants will be about 18" tall.



## Bird Repellent Approved for Corn

### Dr. Erick Larson

**Bird Repellent Exemption** - The Mississippi Department of Agriculture has declared a crisis exemption allowing the use of anthraquinone (Avitec™) for the purpose of repelling blackbirds in newly planted corn in the state of Mississippi. Avitec's active ingredient is a natural, non-lethal compound proven to repel birds. Avitec is available for use on corn seed as either a liquid or dry formulation. The liquid formulation has demonstrated very reliable performance on large avian species, such as cranes, and is the preferred formulation



for high bird pressure fields, but does require commercial seed treating prior to planting. The dry formulation offers growers the convenience and speediness of hopper-box treatment, but its effectiveness is dependent upon thorough seed coverage and gentle handling. For example, performance of the dry material may not be as good as the liquid form when used in planters with air or vacuum seed metering systems, because the air circulation may remove some of the product from seeds before planting. The use of supplemental dry lubricant on the corn seed may also reduce Avitec seed coverage and/or adherence of the dry formulation, and subsequent repellency.

## Corn Insects

### Dr. Chris Daves

**Slugs on Seedling Corn:** Several calls have come in regarding the presence of slugs in seedling corn. There have been NO reports of severe infestations or heavily damaged fields at this time. Slugs are most often associated or problematic in no-till fields where crop residue is abundant. Periods of cool, wet weather and extended rain fall favors slug development. Slugs typically feed on the leaf surface where they use their toothed covered tongue to scrape the leaf surface. The resulting damage will appear as irregular shaped holes or streaks on the leaves. However, slugs can also be found feeding on the exposed seed and emerging stem in places where the seed furrow was not completely closed at planting. Currently, there are no economic thresholds for slugs. When scouting for slugs keep in mind slugs are less active during daylight hours. Look for slugs under dirt clods and crop residue if you suspect slug damage. Slugs are also known to leave a very characteristic slime trail on the leaves. Slug baits (molluscicidal baits) are available but expensive. As seedling corn plants begin to grow more rapidly, feeding by slugs will likely cause little damage.

**Stink Bugs:** Keep an eye out for stink bugs in seedling corn especially in fields adjacent to wheat. As you begin to walk your fields checking plant stands and looking for other insect pests, keep in mind stink bugs can damage these young corn plants. Several species of stink can be found in corn and most often they are found feeding in the whorl. Stink bug feeding usually goes unnoticed until the leaves begin to grow out of the whorl. Damaged plants may turn yellow and the leaves will have irregular shaped



holes across the leaves. If the growing point is damaged by stink bug feeding, stunted plants may only produce tillers and never develop harvestable ears or death of the plant may occur.

**Stink Bug Threshold:** Treatments are justified on corn less than 2 feet tall when 10% of the plants have 1 or more stink bugs present. Several pyrethroids are labeled in corn for controlling stink bug populations. See the Corn, Cotton and Soybean Insect Control Guide 2008 for additional information.

## Wheat Insects

### Angus Catchot

We are beginning to see stink bugs show up in some wheat fields in the delta. Every year there are lots of calls about what to do with stink bugs in wheat. It is not uncommon to find stink bugs in wheat after head emergence. However, it takes extremely high numbers to cause economic damage to heading wheat. With this in mind, seeing high numbers of stink bugs while walking a wheat field may seem alarming, but it takes a lot of stink bugs to cause economic damage. Research from the early 80's showed that the milk stage of development is most susceptible to damage from stink bugs by reducing grain weight and germination. Current stink bug thresholds for wheat are 1 stinkbug/10 heads in the milk and soft dough stage. Once wheat reaches the hard dough stage the likelihood of damage from stink bug is diminished greatly. While it is not uncommon to find Green stink bugs, rice stink bugs, and brown stink bugs in wheat, at this time the predominant stink bugs being found in Mississippi are brown stink bugs. Because we do not generally treat a lot of wheat for stink bugs, wheat can actually harbor lots of stink bugs that will eventually move out into corn and group four soybeans when the wheat begins to hit hard dough. Be sure and scout adjacent corn fields closely for sting bugs.



Brown Stink Bug

Green Stink Bugs

Rice Stink Bug

## Soybeans

### Dr. Trey Koger

Careful handling of soybean seed can play huge dividends when it comes to preserving seed quality and germination, especially this year when a lot of the seed is small and in some cases brittle. As discussed last week, most commercial seed treaters are very delicate to the seed and cause little to no damage to the seed during the treating process. There are several things to keep in mind when handling soybean seed between the time the seed leaves the warehouse or distributor and it is planted that will help to preserve seed quality. Applying the following practices will help us to preserve seed quality, to get a stand, and in the end will help us to make a profitable crop.

**Handling:**

- Handle the seed carefully whether it is in 50 .lb paper bags or bulk bags.
  - “Sit” 50 .lb bags down rather than “tossing” them. Remember some seed this year is brittle.
- Be careful when filling seed tenders and transports. Allow the seed to slide down sloped sides once the bottom is full, and then fill from center. This will keep the seed from falling great distances and slamming against the bottom of tender.
- When filling planters or drills, try to fill gently and not let the seed fall into planter or drill.

**Storage:**

- Keep seed in a shaded location and not in the direct sunlight prior to planting. Direct sunlight will cause excessive heat in paper and bulk bags.
- Ventilate buildings used to store seed so that seed is not exposed to extreme temperatures. Temperatures in metal buildings not allowed to ventilate can become excessive and damage seed.
- If seed is stored in a seed tender or transport for more than a day, try to keep in a shaded location when not in use and out of direct sunlight.
- Remove seed from planters and drills and store in a shaded location if seed is to sit in the planter or drill for more than 24 hours. The heat and direct sunlight can severely damage the seed.
- Remove seed from planters and drills for the time period between planting your full-season soybean crop and double-cropped soybean.

Overall, try to be mindful to handle the seed carefully, keep in a shaded location when not in use, and keep from high temperature environments. Doing these things will help to maintain seed quality every year, and especially in a year like this one in which we have extensive seed quality issues and essentially have one shot at getting a stand the first time we plant.

**Seeding rates on silt loam or “sandy” soils:**

Seeding rate recommendations for Mississippi soybean producers have been developed predominately for soybean grown on heavy clay to mixed soils. However, this year due to commodity prices a vast amount of acreage historically grown to cotton on silt loam or “sandy” soils will be grown to soybean. The phone calls requesting seeding rate recommendations for soybean grown on “cotton” soils have been very steady over the past several weeks. Most soybean grown on silt loam soils will be planted in 38 to 40 inch rows or twin rows, and lodging can be extensive under these circumstances when the seeding rate is too high. Overall, we can reduce our seeding rates when growing soybean on these silt loam soils when compared to seeding rates for clay or mixed soils. Reducing seeding rates for maturity group 5 varieties grown on silt loam soils is especially warranted as these varieties often put on a tremendous amount of vegetative growth when grown on sandy soils. This is especially true when planting occurs in late-April to early May under irrigated conditions. Below are tables for optimal plant populations (final stand) and seeding rates for maturity group three, four, and five varieties grown on silt-loam sandy soils when planted in mid- to late-April to early May. Keep in mind, group three varieties will likely not canopy the row middles when grown on single 38 or 40 inch rows, especially under dryland environments. **All of these tables are based on 80% germination.** If germination for your seed is below that, seeding rates should be adjusted

accordingly. Keep in mind, adjusting for low germination should be done at a conservative level, as “over adjusting” can lead to excessive populations and lodging on silt loam sandy soils.

**Table 1. Recommended plant populations for soybean grown on silt loam (sandy) soils.**

Planting date	Recommended <b>plant</b> population (plants / acre)		
	group 3's	late group 4's*	group 5's
mid- to late-April	130,000	100,000	90,000
early May	130,000	100,000	90,000
late may to early June (double crop soybean)	130,000	100,000	90,000

\* For early- to mid-four's, increase seeding rate to obtain population of 115,000 plants / acre.

**Table 2. Seeding rates for soybean grown in wide or twin rows. Seeding rates based on desired plant population and 80% germination and 90% emergence.**

Desired # of plants / acre	Seeding rate seed / acre	Wide-row (inches)		Twin-row*		
		38	40	38-inch row	40-inch row	
		Seed / ft of row to be planted in each row				
<b>90,000</b>	125,000	9.0	9.5	4.5	4.7	
<b>100,000</b>	138,000	10.0	10.5	5.0	5.2	
<b>115,000</b>	160,000	11.5	12.0	5.7	6	
<b>120,000</b>	166,000	12.0	12.7	6.0	6.3	
<b>130,000</b>	180,000	13.0	13.7	6.5	6.8	

\*Seeding rate does not need to be adjusted for row spacing within a twin-row set (ex. 7.5, 8, or 10 inches between individual rows of a twin-row set). Adjust seeding rate for twin-rows only when switching from 38 or 40 inch main row pattern to twin-row row patterns.

As we get into the growing season and you have concerns about potentially “thin” stands and want to discuss options and/or weed control issues, do not hesitate to call me or your area/county MSU Extension service agent.

## Soybean Rust Update

### Dr. Tom Allen and Dr. Trey Koger

In the past few weeks I have begun to receive telephone calls, emails and even hear some rumors concerning the status of soybean rust in 2008. On January 7, 2008 rust was identified on kudzu in a sheltered location in Bolivar County. Following freezing temperatures later on that week the kudzu defoliated and rust was unable to survive. Kudzu all the way to the Mississippi coast was confirmed to have defoliated following freezing temperatures. Currently, soybean rust can no longer be found in MS. At present time, active soybean rust, can ONLY be found on kudzu in Florida. However, all of the active rust in FL is south of the Panhandle. Active rust can also be found on volunteer soybeans in Mexico. One location in Alabama, where rust had survived the winter on a kudzu vine, was destroyed per a personal request on Friday. The most current information on soybean rust can be located at [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net) and by reading the state commentaries accessed by clicking on a particular state. You can sign up for email updates as things change throughout the season by clicking on the “sign up for alerts” heading in the right hand corner. There are several choices listed, as to either national, Delta, or southeast updates.

As in the past, the soybean rust hotline (866-641-1847) will be available for Mississippi soybean producers. Annual funding has been made available by the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, and BASF. Since information from Arkansas and Louisiana is also available we have requested them to share the cost for 2008 and the foreseeable future. The hotline will be updated

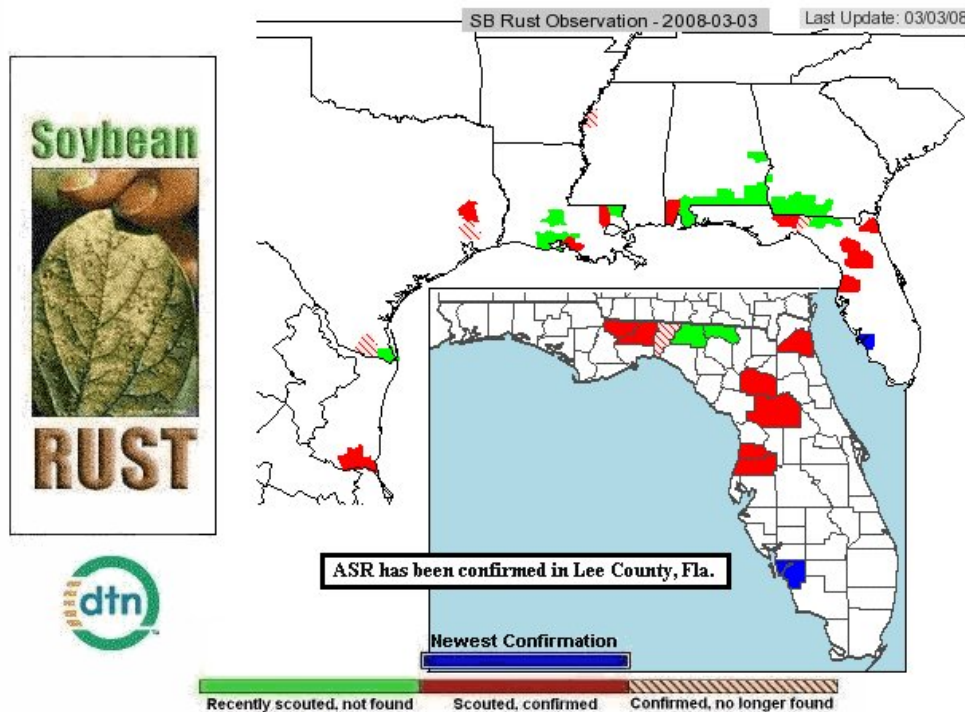
weekly, and as needed with specific recommendations and pertinent information with regards to soybean rust and the progression of the disease.

As of April 1, we have planted 22 sentinel plots throughout MS. Sentinel plots will need to be replaced in at least four locations following deer damage, flooding, and poor stand establishment. At those locations where we cannot replace the plot we will move the monitored location into a nearby production field. Following the 2007 season and due to the progression of rust throughout MS and the southeast we have added two sentinel locations one each in Alcorn and Desoto counties. The remaining twenty sentinel plots are located at either the same site or in a nearby cooperator's field.

If we happen to find rust, please refer to the MS hotline number above, or monitor the [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net) website. We will work to keep both of these necessary media sources as current as possible. Should chemical recommendations for soybean rust be deemed necessary, those specific recommendations will come through channels directly associated with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and will either be disseminated through my office, or by Trey Koger, Dan Poston, or Billy Moore. If you have a specific question, or think you may have found soybean rust do not hesitate to call one of us regarding the situation.

For 2008 we are going to use the same scouting and monitoring crew as we have in the past with the addition of Trey Koger. Soybean rust has always been found in MS in sentinel plots before production fields. This is one reason we plant sentinel plots so early, so that we can formulate recommendations.

I have also included the current list of available fungicides for the control of soybean rust. There have been a few additions, and several notable deletions from last year's chemical options. Please pay particular attention to the notes on Caramba and Headline SBR. Also, the ruling from the EPA on tebuconazole will come out sometime during the growing season. A new product, prothioconazole (Proline from Bayer) should become available during the middle of the soybean growing season.



## Fungicides approved or pending approval in Mississippi for soybean rust control in 2008.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Label	Rate range	PHI	Chemical Group	Registration Expiration Date
<b><u>Preventative:</u></b>						
Headline	Pyraclostrobin	Section 3 (Full)	6-12 fl oz/a	21 days	Strobilurin	-----
Quadris	Azoxystrobin	Section 3 (Full)	6.2-15.4 fl oz/a	14 days	Strobilurin	-----
<b><u>Curative/Penetrant:</u></b>						
Alto 100 SL	Cyproconazole	Section 18 (Emergency)	2.75-4 fl oz/a	30 days	Triazole	3/31/09
Bumper 41.8 EC	Propiconazole	Section 3 (Full)	4-8 fl oz/a	No later than R6	Triazole	-----
<sup>w</sup> Caramba	Metconazole	Section 18 (Emergency)	8.2-9.6 fl oz/a	30 days	Triazole	3/31/09
Domark 230 ME	Tetraconazole	Section 3 (Full)	4 - 6 fl oz/a	No later than R5	Triazole	-----
<sup>x</sup> Folicur	Tebuconazole	Possible Section 3 (Full)	3-4 fl oz/a	21 days	Triazole	-----
Laredo EC	Myclobutanil	Section 3 (Full)	4-8 fl oz/a	28 days	Triazole	-----
Laredo EW	Myclobutanil	Section 3 (Full)	4.8-9.6 fl oz/a	28 days	Triazole	-----
<sup>y</sup> Orius 3.6F	Tebuconazole	Possible Section 3 (Full)	3 -4 fl oz/a	30 days	Triazole	-----
<sup>y</sup> Proline	Prothioconazole	Section 3 (Full)	2.5-3.0 fl oz/a	30 days	Triazole	-----
Propimax EC	Propiconazole	Section 3 (Full)	4-8 fl oz/a	No later than R6	Triazole	-----
Punch	Flusilazole	Section 18 (Emergency)	3-4 fl oz/a	30 days	Triazole	6/15/10
Tilt	Propiconazole	Section 3 (Full)	4-8 fl oz/a	No later than R6	Triazole	-----
Topguard	Flutriafol	Section 18 (Emergency)	7 fl oz/a	21 days	Triazole	5/11/10
<sup>x</sup> Uppercut	Tebuconazole	Possible Section 3 (Full)	3-4 fl oz/a	30 days	Triazole	-----
<b><u>Curative/Preventative:</u></b>						
<sup>w</sup> Headline SBR	Tebuconazole + Pyraclostrobin	Section 18 (Emergency)	7.8 fl oz/a	30 days	Triazole + Strobilurin	?
Quadris Xtra	Cyproconazole + Azoxystrobin	Section 18 (Emergency)	4 oz/a	30 days	Triazole + Strobilurin	3/31/09
Stratego	Propiconazole + Trifloxystrobin	Section 3 (Full)	5.5-10 fl oz/a	No later than R6	Triazole + Strobilurin	-----
Quilt	Propiconazole + Azoxystrobin	Section 3 (Full)	14-20.5 fl oz/a	No later than R6	Triazole + Strobilurin	-----
<b><u>Preventative/Penetrant:</u></b>						
*Bravo Weather Stick	Chlorothalonil	Section 3 (Full)	1.5-2.25 pt/a	42 days	Chloronitrile	-----
*Echo 720	Chlorothalonil	Section 3 (Full)	1.5-2.5 pt/a	42 days	Chloronitrile	-----
*Echo 90DF	Chlorothalonil	Section 3 (Full)	1.25-2.0 lb/a	42 days	Chloronitrile	-----
*Equus 720 SST	Chlorothalonil	Section 3 (Full)	1.5-2.4 pt/a	42 days	Chloronitrile	-----
*Equus DF	Chlorothalonil	Section 3 (Full)	1.25-2.2 lb/a	42 days	Chloronitrile	-----
*Echo Zn	Chlorothalonil	Section 3 (Full)	1.5-2.75 pints/a (3 app.) 2-3.5 pints/a (2 app.)	42 days	Chloronitrile	-----

Fungicides approved or pending approval in Mississippi for soybean rust control in 2008.

<sup>w</sup>BASF has discontinued this product due to an inert ingredient issue. However, if you still have any of this product it can be used in 2008.

<sup>x</sup>Section 3 registration decision will come at some point during the 2008 growing season, however, if a Section 3 is not granted this may in fact be a Section 18. Registration will likely follow with the tebuconazole products sometime in 2008. The temporary tolerance for tebuconazole expires 12/31/09.

<sup>y</sup>The full label for soybean rust will be released during the 2008 growing season. Bayer will likely promote this product as a tank mix with Stratego at a 10 + 1 fl oz/a rate.

<sup>z</sup>BASF has discontinued this product for 2008. However, if you still have this product, it can be used in 2008.

\*Chlorothalonil has only limited activity against rust, and only as a topical protectant.

## Market Briefs

### Dr. Steve Martin and Dr. John Anderson

**Cotton:** New York (NYMEX) cotton futures prices have traded sideways to slightly upward over the last two weeks. The Dec 08 contract is currently trading around \$0.84 up from the \$0.82 level a couple of weeks ago.

The April World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report provided bearish news to the cotton market. The production estimate for the 2007 crop was raised to 19.40 million bales up from the previous estimate of 19.03 million bales. Domestic usage was increased 100,000 bales and thus ending stocks were raised only 300,000 to 9.7 million; 200,000 more than last year. Exports were estimated at 14.5 million bales, the same as last month. Most of the changes were expected by the cotton industry and therefore very little market reaction to the report was observed. In fact, many thought exports would be reduced as well and when USDA reported no change, market reaction was slightly positive.

Cotton prices will continue to struggle to balance the large levels of carry-over stocks with the anticipation/reality of reduced acres in 2008. Demand is still good as was proven last week with export sales of almost a half million bales after the market had fallen into the low \$0.80 range. While the market will see many more ups and downs, cotton prices will continue to drift upward over the next several months assuming the 2008 crop is around 9-9.3 million acres or less.

**Soybeans:** The soybean market got no real news in last week's *WASDE* report. On the face of it, the report looked somewhat bearish due to its increasing carryover projections. In fact, the 20 million bushel increase in ending stocks was right in line with pre-report expectations.

With no real surprises in the *WASDE* figures, the market quickly moved on to trading on other information. One might expect the cool, wet weather in the Midwest to be a negative factor for soybeans since any prevented planting of corn is likely to increase soybean acreage. While the market will be keeping a watchful eye on that situation, right now other more immediate factors are supporting a rally in soybean prices. For the last few days, demand side influences have held sway in the soybean market. Last week's export figures were very strong and were above expectations. Lingering weakness in the dollar is fueling expectations of continued strong export demand. Continuing uncertainty over the availability of Argentine exports is also contributing demand-side strength in the soybean market. May soybeans on Monday moved up 40 cents to their highest level in a month, closing at \$13.72 ½. New crop contracts didn't gain quite as much. November closed up 24 ½ cents on Monday at \$12.87. With weather at this point quickly becoming more supportive of corn and less supportive of beans for reasons stated above, this demand driven rally presents a good pricing opportunity for anybody who regrets passing on these price levels the last time around.

**Rice: Corn:** Last week's *WASDE* report was supportive of the corn market. Despite high corn prices, feed use as indicated in the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report remains strong. USDA increased feed used estimates by 200 million bushels in this month's projections. This, along with a 50 million bushel increase in export projections, more than offset a 100 million bushel reduction in corn use for ethanol projection. The resulting carryover projection of 1.283 billion bushels was well to the low side of expectations.

Corn futures traded up to new contract highs following the *WASDE* release. By the end of the week, though, corn futures were back down to pre-report levels as forecasts of improving planting conditions in the Midwest began to dominate the news. Midwest planting conditions will remain front-and-center in the market for the next two or three weeks at least. Weather aside, corn market fundamentals remain remarkably strong, featuring strong demand (from both domestic and foreign users), low stocks, and prospects for relatively low plantings this year. Prices are unlikely to relax significantly until some evidence begins to show up that somebody (livestock producers, ethanol manufacturers, export customers, or all of the above) has begun to reduce their demand.

**Wheat:** The latest *WASDE* report was uneventful for wheat. Carryover projections were unchanged, though 50 million bushels of use was swapped from the feed/residual category to exports. Wheat markets are increasingly tuned in to winter wheat crop conditions. The market expected some improvement in condition ratings on Monday. This, along with deteriorating hard wheat cash prices, kept pressure on wheat futures. Monday's *Crop Progress* report did show a 2% increase in the percentage of the winter wheat crop rated as Good or Excellent. This was in line with expectations. Freezing weather in the Plains over the weekend had little impact on the market as the crop there is not far enough along to have suffered any damage. Looking ahead, forecasts for more rain the Plains are probably a negative factor for prices, suggesting the potential for further improvement in condition ratings and yield potential.

## Cotton

**Dr. Darrin Dodds**

**Planting Forecast:** Reports from around the state indicate that no cotton has been planted yet due to the cool, wet conditions. However, based on the 10-day weather forecast from [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com), it appears as if this weekend or early next week may present more favorable conditions for cotton planting. Predicted highs/low as well as DD60 accumulation for the next ten days are given in Table 1.

**Table 1. Planting conditions based on predicted high/low temperature and DD60 accumulation for next 10 days.**

Date	Tupelo			Tunica			Yazoo City		
	High	Low	DD60 Accumulation	High	Low	DD60 Accumulation	High	Low	DD60 Accumulation
April 16	73	47	0	71	51	1	76	54	5
April 17	76	54	5	72	58	5	78	60	9
April 18	69	46	0	66	47	0	69	49	0
April 19	71	49	0	69	52	0.5	79	55	7
April 20	75	59	7	73	64	8.5	82	66	14
April 21	83	62	12.5	82	64	13	89	68	18.5
April 22	87	59	13	83	60	11.5	88	63	15.5
April 23	80	58	9	75	59	7	85	63	14
April 24	79	55	7	73	55	4	82	60	11
April 25	79	56	7.5	74	54	4	84	61	12.5

= DD60 accumulation over next 5 days good for planting.  
= DD60 accumulation over next 5 days very good for planting.

**Replant Decisions:** Replant decisions due to weather or other adverse conditions can be difficult to make. When considering whether or not to replant there are several factors that must be considered. The calendar date must be considered when making the decision to replant. A stand that would be replanted on April 29<sup>th</sup> may be kept on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Generally speaking, cotton yields in Mississippi begin to decline when cotton is planted after May 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, thoroughly

**Table 2. Row lengths equivalent to 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of an acre at various row spacings.**

Row Spacing (Inches)						
7.5	15	20	30	36	38	40
Row Length Needed to Equal 1/1000 <sup>th</sup> of an Acre						
69'8"	34'10"	26'10"	17'5"	14'6"	13'9"	13'1"

examine your existing stand of cotton. Instead of estimating the plant population over an entire acre, go to several areas of the field and actually count plants in an area equivalent to 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of an acre. Row lengths at various spacing equivalent to 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of an acre are given in Table 2. For example, if you are planting on 38" rows and you count 42 live plants in 13'9" of row (from Table 2 below), then your stand would be 42,000 plants per acre.

Research has shown that plant populations of 20,000 to 30,000 plants per acre can produce acceptable yields; however, a uniform stand is necessary. Skips larger than two- to three-feet in length can lead to problems down the road. Once you have determined your actual plant population, carefully examine the plants within the field. Take note of any damage caused by weather, insects, mechanical damage, etc. Examine the root system, if the roots appear discolored, gently scrape away some of the discolored tissue and examine the underlying tissue. If the tissue is green to white in color underneath of the darkened tissue, the plant will probably live. Also take note of the terminal growth as well as the overall health of the plant. Do not forget about herbicides applied prior to planting as well. If you are considering replanting with a crop other than cotton, be aware of the planting restrictions your herbicide of choice has in regards to the crop you want to plant. The decision to replant is also influenced by the amount of seed and technology fee that will be covered. Most companies have replant policies such that the monetary cost of seed, seed treatments, and technology fees will be covered to some degree. However, it is important to consider the actual time spent replanting as well as the delay in crop maturity due to the later (re)planting date. If forced to replant, manage your crop for earliness and avoid circumstances that may further delay maturity. Quoting some of my colleagues from other states, "If the decision to replant is difficult, then there are probably enough plants to keep the stand you have."

**Monsanto Mobile Technology Unit (MTU):** The Monsanto Mobile Technology Unit (MTU) will be visiting the campus of Mississippi State University on April 29 – May 1, 2008. The Monsanto MTU is a semi-tractor and trailer specially modified to demonstrate the latest in plant breeding, biotechnology, and new innovations in corn, soybean, and cotton. The tour consists of a 15-minute video followed by a tour of the "laboratory" with information provided by Monsanto tour guides. The tour guide will provide information regarding genetic engineering as well as the development and implementation of traits commonly used in agriculture today (i.e. Bollgard I & II, Roundup Ready, Roundup Ready Flex, etc.) as well as traits that are being developed. Tours will be conducted in groups of up to 20 people every half hour from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The Monsanto MTU will be located at the south end of Scott Field (football stadium) near The Junction. Please RSVP your group and preferred day to Dr. Dr. Darrin Dodds at 662-325-4072 by April 25<sup>th</sup>.

# Our Science. Your Success.

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Please join us as a special guest when the  
Monsanto Mobile Technology Unit visits

Mississippi State University  
Located adjacent to Scott Field  
April 29 thru May 1, 2008  
8:00am – 4:00pm



The Mobile Technology Unit is a unique traveling exhibit showcasing Monsanto's advances in plant breeding, biotechnology and new product innovations in corn, soybean and cotton. During your visit, Ag Educators will provide a firsthand look at how Monsanto is applying advanced science to help farmers be more profitable and create new market opportunities for their crops.

Don't miss  
this great  
experience!



Reserve a time for you or your group today  
dmd76@pss.msstate.edu  
662-325-4072

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TAKEN OFF OF THE LIST, UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, OR BE ADDED TO THE EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST PLEASE CONTACT SHERRY MCMULLIN AT (662) 325-2085 OR EMAIL HER AT: [smcmullin@entomology.msstate.edu](mailto:smcmullin@entomology.msstate.edu) WITH **CIS NEWSLETTER** IN THE SUBJECT LINE TO BE ADDED TO THE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER LIST OR MAKE ANY CHANGES.

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