

Missouri Ag News

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Early Insect and Weed Recommendations

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Crops	Horticulture
Engineering	Livestock
Forestry	Other



At our annual Missouri Rice Producers Conference last week we had topics on pump and well efficiency, arsenic in rice, SEMO Aquifers, weeds, diseases, insects, fertility and marketing. Our producers are telling us that Missouri rice acres will be close to 2012 and they are focusing on a good early start for the 2013 season. Their attention is on selection of varieties, early control of resistant and other weeds along with early insect and disease control.

We confirmed the value of early and often flushing in 2012 for herbicide activation which resulted in good early weed control. Due to the drought we were forced to flush early and often for rice seed germination. With conventional and Clearfield, we recommend starting clean with tillage or a burndown, followed with a pre/delayed pre, early post herbicide program. We estimate that MO growers plant about fifty percent Clearfield technology. We suggest matching these technologies and mode of action to your specific weed problems. And, we must pay attention and plan now for not only what your neighbor is planting in the field next to yours but to all applicators in the area, throughout the season. My work on drift and misapplications tells me how

complicated it is so, that's why I'm emphasizing to carefully and fully plan now.

For early insect control we are following the insecticide seed treatment recommendations from Dr. Gus Lorenz of the University of Arkansas. Due to the low seeding rates and cost of seed it's very important to control seedling diseases and insects. The best way to get seedlings off to a healthy start is seed treatments that are matched to your insect and disease situation.

Missouri producers ended the 2012 season with a good yielding rice crop. The quality was off a bit and our pumping cost was high. But, 2013 is another year and they know it will not be like the past two. So, we suggest they identify their specific problems for each field, study their options for solutions and build a plan to match the technology to get positive results. We recommend a consultant to help you, and your retailer along with us. I know it's not simple. That's why God made a farmer.

Sam Atwell, Agronomy Specialist,
University of Missouri Extension,
New Madrid, MO

Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop

Monday, March 18, 2013 at the University of Missouri
Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon, MO

10:00 am to 5:30 pm

Registration: \$60.00 or \$110 per couple

This workshop teaches producers how to replace toxic fall fescue with nontoxic tall fescue. The curriculum covers fescue toxicosis, field testing, establishment of noel endophyte fescue, management of new pastures, seed quality, cost-share opportunities and highlights new fescue cultivars.

Scouting School

The 2013 University of Missouri Delta Center scouting school will be March 4 to March 21, 2013.

Training will be Monday-Thursday from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. in Portageville.

This class will give students an understanding of insects, weeds, soils, diseases, and irrigation management in cotton, corn, wheat, rice, and soybeans.

The class is open to the first 25 paid students. Please call Tina at 573-379-5431 to register. \$250 per person for the first 25 paid registrations.

SPCC Plans

The EPA has set a deadline for SPCC plans to be in place by May 10, 2013. The website from EPA for determining if you qualify and what you need to include in the plan is located at: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/index.htm>

On this site is a series of easy to use templates and instructions for determining if you need a SPCC plan and what you need to include in the information. For example, if you need one or more tanks that contain at least 1320 gallons you qualify as needing one.

If you fit into this category here are a few of the basics that are in the EPA materials:

You must have a SPCC plan if you:

Store, transfer, use, or consume oil or oil products: diesel fuel, gasoline, lube oil, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil, or animal fat.

Store more than 1,320 US gallons in aboveground containers or more than 42,000 US gallons in completely buried containers.

Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters of the US or adjoining shorelines: rivers, streams, interstate waters and intrastate lakes.

What information will I need to prepare an SPCC Plan for my farm?

1. List of oil containers at the farm by parcel (including contents and location of each container);
2. Brief description of procedures you will use to prevent oil spills. For example, steps used to transfer fuel from a storage tank to your farm vehicles that reduce the possibility of a fuel spill;
3. Brief description of measures installed to prevent oil from reaching water (see next section);
4. Brief description of the measures used to contain and cleanup an oil spill to water; and
5. List of emergency contacts and first responders.

What spill prevention measures should I implement and include in my SPCC Plan?

1. Use containers suitable for oil stored (ex. storing gasoline in containers designed for flammable liquid);
2. Identify contractors or other local personnel who can help you clean up an oil spill;
3. Provide overfill prevention for oil storage containers: a high-level alarm, or audible vent, or establish a procedure to fill containers;
4. Provide effective, sized secondary containment for bulk storage containers, such as a dike or a remote impoundment. The containment must be able to hold the full capacity of the container plus possible rainfall. The dike may be constructed of earth or concrete. A double-walled tank may also suffice;
5. Provide effective, general secondary containment to address the most likely discharge where you transfer oil to and from containers and for mobile refuelers such as fuel nurse tanks (sorberent materials, drip pans or curbing);
6. Periodically inspect and test pipes and containers. Visually inspect aboveground pipes & containers. Perform a "leak test" on buried pipes when they are installed or repaired;
7. Keep a written record of your inspections.

A brief reminder of the containment regulations (from 1973). The SPCC regulations ask what you plan to do to prevent a spill or contain it but does not cover having secondary containment. This is contained in the 1973 regulation stating, "if you have one tank over 660 gallons or a series of tanks over 1320 then you must have secondary containment." If there are large enough quantities to need secondary containment then consider getting it done. The forms for this regulation are also found on the EPA website and a plan of action should be developed in case there is a spill. Copies should be kept as records, close to the fuel tanks, and maybe one with the local fire department so they can review it and check to make sure it is feasible.

Bob Broz, Agricultural Engineering, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Weed Management: Best Practices

During the growing season I usually write an article titled, "Weed of the Month." However, I thought I would begin the year by describing weed management methods that every farmer should use.

The most important aspect of managing weeds in pasture is to have a healthy forage system that will out compete the weeds. Anywhere there is empty space where nothing is growing, a weed will germinate. Having a thick, healthy forage base will help to eliminate safe places for weeds to germinate. Management practices that encourage healthy forages include giving the forage adequate rest, controlling grazing height, proper fertility, minimizing insect damage, etc. will decrease weed populations.

Limiting the amount of seed that weeds produce can control the number of weeds present later in the season or next year. Mowing, grazing, or spraying weeds during flowering will help to limit

seed production. Timing becomes really important in this strategy, because if timed incorrectly the seed can be spread rather than controlled.

One aspect of weed management that is sometimes overlooked is managing fallow areas for weeds. Many of our barn lots, pond dams, and alley ways are breeding grounds for weeds. Sowing beneficial species into these areas may not eliminate the weeds but can dramatically decrease the numbers of seeds that are produced and spread.

Following a drought, weed problems usually increase, and weeds with spines or that are poisonous become more common. Using the weed control strategies mentioned above, along with herbicides as necessary, can help to keep weed numbers manageable.

Sarah Kenyon, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Alton, MO



The Southeast Missouri Food Bank is eager for donations of specialty crops. The food bank will bring a 24 foot box truck to pick up

available produce. Edible produce, including seconds, should be in a crate or box.

Contact James Landewee, Operations Director at 573-651-0400 several days ahead of time if possible and specify if a refrigerated truck is needed. He will provide you with a tax receipt for anything you donate to use as a tax right-off.

A six-pack of Tips for Healthy Cotton

The day cotton farmers' plant is the most important day for that crop the entire year. If the weather is warm 10 to 14 days after planting, the plants will emerge quickly, the seedlings will develop a robust root system, and the plants will grow and yield well that year. If the weather is cold and wet for 10 to 14 days after planting, diseases will attack the seedlings and kill many so the stand will be thin and uneven, the roots of surviving plants will be stunted, and the plants will grow and yield poorly that year. Farmers can help protect their young cotton crop against seedling diseases that may develop during cool wet weather by following the six steps listed below. I call these six steps a six-pack of tips for a healthy cotton crop.

1. Plant only when the soil temperature 4 inches deep has warmed up to about 65°F by 8:00 a.m. and plant only when at least 7 days of warm and dry weather are predicted.
2. Plant only high-quality seed. Seed quality can be partially judged by the warm and cold germination test results. The seed should germinate better than 80% in the warm test and better than 50% in the cold test. The warm test results are printed on the seed bag, but the results of the cold test are not. Ask your seed dealer about the cold germination test results.
3. Plant in fertile soil. Ensure that soil pH,

phosphate and potash levels are proper for new plant growth.

4. Plant on high beds. Seedling diseases are worse when the soil is cold and wet. To minimize seedling diseases, plant on raised beds to maximize drainage and soil temperature. The top of a raised bed is generally warmer than flat soil. Make sure field drainage is adequate to quickly eliminate excess water. Internal soil drainage will be improved if hardpans are broken with a ripper.
5. Have the seed treated with extra fungicides when cotton is planted early in the season, in poorly drained fields, or in clay soils, and certainly in fields where seedling diseases have been a problem in previous years.
6. When planting no-till, equip your planter to move trash away from the row, so the sun can warm the soil around the seed faster.

Following these suggested procedures will give cotton farmers a better chance of producing high yield and profit during 2013. More information is available at your county extension office or on the University of Missouri Delta Center Web Page

(www.aes.missouri.edu/delta).

Allen Wrather, University of Missouri, Delta Center, Portageville, MO (573) 379-5431

Do You Need Bees for Production?

In response to requests from produce growers the Butler County Extension Center has information related to pollination sources for the 2013 growing season. If you are looking for pollinators we have a beekeeper that is looking for you.

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 Extension

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Future Meetings & Events -

Scouting School: Beginning Monday, March 4 to March 21, 2013, Monday-Thursday from 5 to 9 pm at the Fisher Delta Research Center in Portageville, MO. To register call 573-379-5431.

Scouting School Tour: Coming in May in Poplar Bluff, MO. More details to come.

Commodities and markets - <http://extension.missouri.edu/seregion/fmmkt.htm>