Planting 2016

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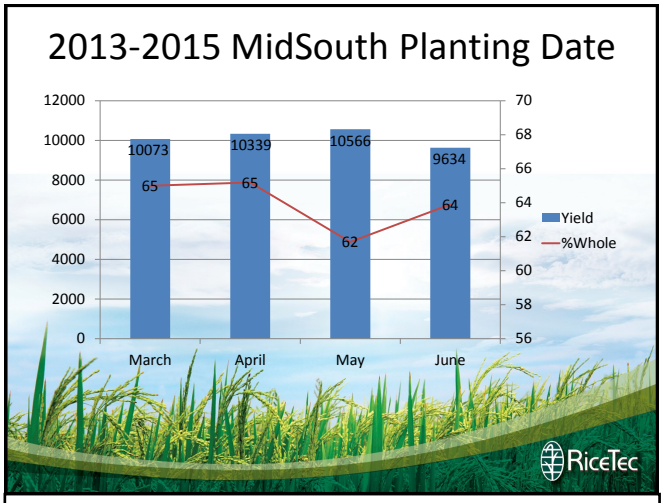
RiceTec

Leadership and Innovation Within the Field of Rice

Planting Dates and Seeding Rates

Mason Wallace

Winter has quickly turned to Spring across the Southern rice belt. Recent heavy rains and flooding have caused delays, but a dry stretch and high winds have dried fields considerably. Many growers have begun rice planting despite cool soil temperatures, and there has been much debate on whether to start or wait for warmer conditions. The two questions that growers ask the most every planting season are "when should I plant?" and "how much should I plant?". At RiceTec, we love research and we love to share our data with growers, but farmers are busy and most just want the answer so they can get on with business. To the point, here are the research backed answers to the questions of planting dates and seeding rates.



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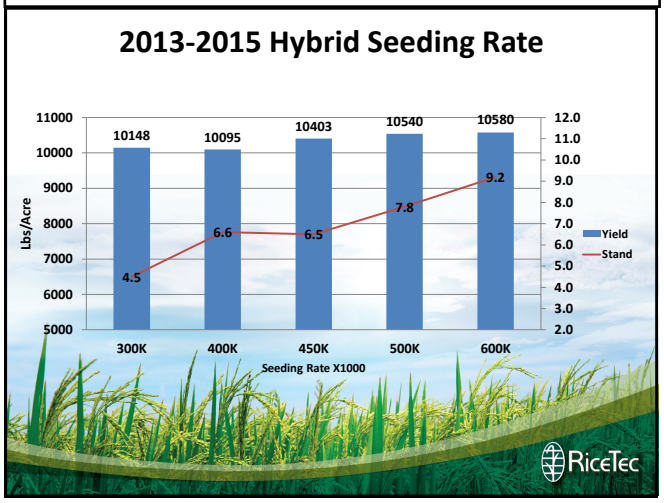


The typical rule of thumb to begin planting rice is March 15th for the Gulf Coast region and April 1st for the Mid-South region. The true answer is that planting should begin when soil reaches 60 degrees at a 4 inch depth for 2-3 days. In the MidSouth, soil temperatures typically reach 60 degress on average around April 15th. Rice planted at 60 degrees typically takes 20 days to emerge. Soil temperatures of 55 or lower will result in emergence taking up to 30 days from planting or more. So be sure to know your soil temperature before beginning to plant. As the planting date chart to the right shows, April and early May planting dates are the highest yielding, while late March and June planting dates show lower yields. Early March planting dates deal with cold soils and weed control problems and late planting dates have reduced yields. Late May and early June planting dates though still remain profitable with RiceTec hybrids, but specific conditions must be taken into account.

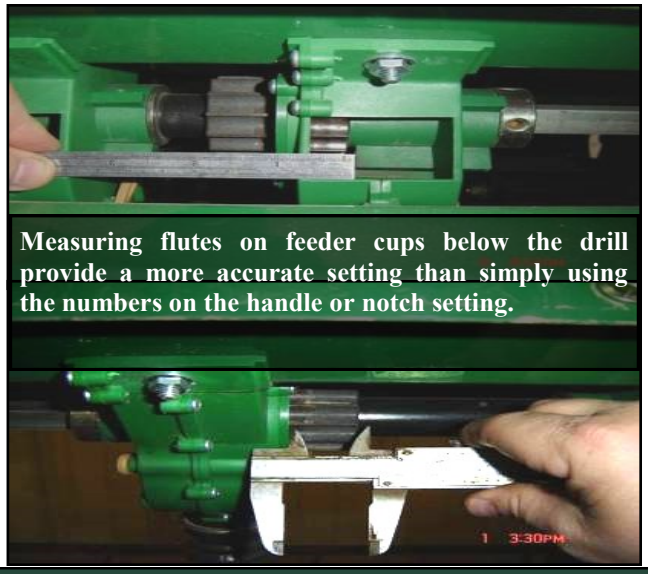
While seeding rates are important, they are simply a means to an end. Optimum stand density is the primary goal, so seeding rate should be determined by how many seeds it takes to achieve the proper number of plants. The short answer for current RiceTec hybrids is that you need at least 4 plants per sq/ft to have maximum yield potential. In the chart to the right, stand density at about 4 plants per sq/ft and greater shows no statistical difference across 3 years. The most popular seeding rate is 450,000 seeds per acre (about 22 lbs) that results to 10.3 seeds per sq/ft. Typically, 450,000 seeds will result in 6 plants sq/ft stand or more. Under tougher conditions (rough seedbed, no-till, broadcast, heavy clay soils, and cool soil temperatures), it may sometimes be wise to increase the seeding rate to compensate for those factors.

- Check our website for the latest news, economic models, and yield forecasts.
- For BASF Clearfield® System use and stewardship guidelines, visit the RiceTec or BASF website.

Drill Calibration

Jay Burchfield

Achieving your desired seeding rate begins with proper grain drill calibration. Begin with the starting points listed on these charts and adjust from there using the instructions below. Instructional videos and interactive calibration worksheets can be found at **www.ricetec.com** or on the RiceTec apps, available for iPhone and iPad. Contact your RiceTec representative for further assistance.



Measuring flutes on feeder cups below the drill provide a more accurate setting than simply using the numbers on the handle or notch setting.

STARTING POINT ONLY

Starting drill settings to plant 450,000 rice seeds/acre*

Drill make	Row Spacing (inches)	Drive Speed	Notch Setting	Cog Measurement** (millimeters) Inside	Outside
Great Plains	**7.5**	**1**	**56**	**21**	**24**
	8	**1**	**58**	**23**	**22**
	10	**1**	**65**	**26**	**19**
John Deere	**7.5**	**1/2**	**22**	**14**	**33**
	10	**1/2**	**28**	**17**	**30**

* Settings based on seed size of 19,000 to 21,000 seeds/lb

** Millimeters of Cog Exposed

STARTING POINT ONLY

STARTING POINT ONLY

Starting drill settings to plant 500,000 rice seeds/acre*

Drill make	Row Spacing (inches)	Drive Speed	Notch Setting	Cog Measurement** (millimeters) Inside	Outside
Great Plains	**7.5**	**1**	**61**	**24**	**21**
	8	**1**	**63**	**25**	**20**
	10	**1**	**73**	**30**	**15**
John Deere	**7.5**	**1/2**	**25**	**16**	**31**
	10	**1/2**	**28**	**20**	**27**

* Settings based on seed size of 19,000 to 21,000 seeds/lb

** Millimeters of Cog Exposed

STARTING POINT ONLY

STARTING POINT ONLY

Starting drill settings for John Deere Air Drills

Models	Row Spacing (inches)	Gear Size	Rice seeds/acre* 450,000 Setting	500,000 Setting
1890, 1990	**7.5**	**large**	**17**	**19**
		small	**27**	**29**

* Settings based on seed size of 19,000 to 21,000 seeds/lb

STARTING POINT ONLY

Drill calibration is a service provided by RiceTec and is <u>not a guarantee</u> of achieving target seeding rate. It is the responsibility of the customer to routinely check behind the drill for proper seeding rate.

RiceTec Replant Policy

DJ Shipman

RiceTec's replant policy is designed to provide customers a replant credit in the event a customer does not achieve an adequate initial plant stand. There will be a very limited amount of seed held back to be purchased for replanting. However, unused seed that has been returned to a Service Partner will be eligible to be used as replant seed. RiceTec customers will be offered a 50% replant opportunity under the following conditions:

- RiceTec representative must view the field in question.
- Only current year tested and germ guaranteed seed is eligible.
- RiceTec product must be used to replant.
- Customer will receive a 50% replant credit for RiceTec seed purchased to replant the field in question. Credit will be applied to customer's account after all documentation is received.
- Replant credit will not be applied to customers with an unpaid seed balance.

BASF Clearfield® Stewardship

Garrison Hardke

Utilizing BASF Clearfield® technology is an investment in your farm. Preserve the technology and make your investment pay off by using these stewardship guidelines. Start clean by applying a burndown herbicide at planting. Apply a residual herbicide, delayed pre-emergence, to increase grass control. Apply two applications of Newpath® as labeled or one application of Newpath® followed by one application of Clearpath® or vice versa. Clearpath® may only be substituted for one application of Newpath®, but not both. Beyond® may be applied as a second application only after an initial application of Newpath® or Clearpath®.

Other tips include:

- Flush within 2 days of first application
- Initiate flood within 2 days of 2nd application
- Maintain weed-free levees and red-rice-free turnrows
- Control red-rice escapes with Beyond®
- Rogue for red-rice escapes
- DO NOT ratoon if red-rice present at harvest

PLANTING 2016

New Experimental Hybrids — Mason Wallace

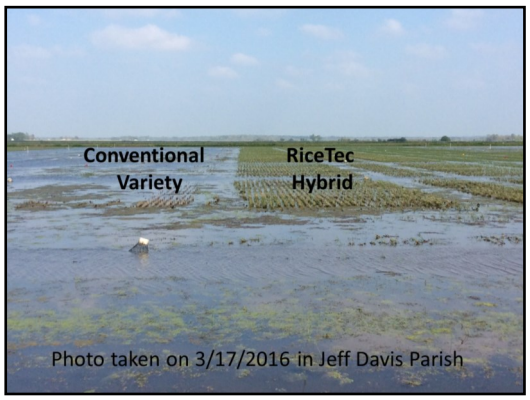
In 2016, RiceTec will be testing three new Experimental Clearfield Hybrids.

1. **Gemini 214 CL** is a new long grain Clearfield line with a 5 to 7% yield increase over Clearfield XL745. It has good stability and provides improved grain retention and Bacterial Panicle Blight resistance compared to our current Clearfield products.
2. **CL XP766** is a new long grain Clearfield line with a 5 to 10% yield increase over Clearfield XL745. This new experimental is expected to have the highest yield potential of all our Clearfield offerings. It is similar in maturity to Clearfield XL745 with good standablity and disease resistance.
3. **CL XP765** and **CL XP769** are new long grain Clearfield products with similar yield to Clearfield XL745 and excellent grain quality. Improved grain clarity is one of the key characteristics with these new experimentals.

Crawfish Forage Study — Cullen Minter

Crawfish season is in full swing, and South Louisiana crawfish producers are hoping for a big week with Easter approaching. RiceTec is working with Dr. Ray McClain with LSU and local crawfish producers to try to get a better grasp on which Hybrids/Varieties provide more forage for crawfish for a longer period of time throughout the crawfishing season.

We have overlayed a crawfish forage persistence study in 3 of our large scales yield trials. Two of which are in Jeff Davis Parish, with one in Acadia Parish. One of these trials was ratooned and the other two were not. We felt this would give us a good representative view of how stubble is managed in before the crawfish crop. We are sampling forage biomass bi-monthly in areas previously marked off before the fall flood was established in these fields. These samples are then dried to a consistent moisture and weighed to compare biomass rates of decline which is a crucial parameter for crawfish production.



We don't have a complete data set yet, but are noticing visual difference in the fields as the season progresses. We are hoping this type of work will benefit our customers who produce crawfish in the future.

Gulf Coast Crop Report — Mark Spilman

Much of the Gulf Coast missed the recent rains and planting should be in full gear this week in both Texas and Louisiana. Some rice was planted in south Louisiana the last two weeks of February before the rains came. Thankfully, we received less rain than we thought, but enough to get crop moving and provide a welcome break for us to get caught up on drill calibrations. The rice that was planted is up and looking good. We have heard from customers that it appears every seed came up. In Texas, what a difference a year makes with the drought situation. The Highland Lakes above Austin, Texas, provide much of the water for our three biggest rice counties. This year Lake Travis and Buchanan are nearly full, and rice farmers who have been unable to plant rice over the last four years will be back in business this year. This could mean a possible increase in Texas rice acres of 40% in 2016.

Call your local RiceTec Representative to visit one of our 16 Farm Scale Yield Trials throughout Louisiana and Texas. We will have all of the current commercial RiceTec products as well as a few promising additions. Currently we have two Trials planted in south Louisiana. One in Evangeline Parish with Kenneth LaHaye and the other with Michael Hundley in Acadia Parish. We expect the majority of the others to be planted in the next couple of weeks, weather permitting.

Finally, we would like to thank our customers for their business and putting us in a sold out position this year. We appreciate the support and loyalty you have shown us over the years. We realize that not everyone was able to get RiceTec seed who wanted it. That is why we encourage those of you that have purchased RiceTec seed to let your Service Partner or RiceTec Representative know of any returnable or long seed that you may have as soon as you finish planting. The sooner we know, the better chance we have of moving it to a customer who may have missed out.

Seed Supply Update — Jeff Reeves

The 2016 seed sales season started and remained strong during the fall and winter months resulting in current seed supply at a sold-out status on most of our products. RiceTec experienced some loss of production this past year due to the excessive rainfall and cloudy days during pollination, however, total supply remains enough to supply the current 26% increase in sales vs. 2015. With this being the case, we urge growers and service partners with needs to keep in contact with your local district sales manager as additional supply has historically become available as the planting season progresses. Thank you for your support and patience with the current supply situation and we look forward to working with you this season.

RiceTec, Inc.

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RiceTec Newsletter
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- Drill Calibration
- Replant Policy
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- Crawfish Forage Study
- Gulf Coast Crop Report
- Seed Supply Update

District Manager Contacts

District 1	Whitney Blake	870-273-4988
District 2	Nick Ragsdell	870-878-1554
District 3	Hunter Jones	870-273-9289
District 4	Kurt Johns	870-2434696
District 5	William Hutchens	870-273-9291
District 6	Garrison Hardke	501-772-1715
District 7	Whitney Jones	501-516-6904
District 8	Jeff Mosley	662-719-1034
District 9	Jeff Branson	870-578-8436
District 10	Jay Burchfield	662-402-2781
District 11	Mike Worthington	337-263-4297
District 12	Nicky Miller	337-207-6572
District 13	Cullen Minter	337-499-6498
District 14	Derrol Grymes	281-381-9371

Regional Manager Contacts

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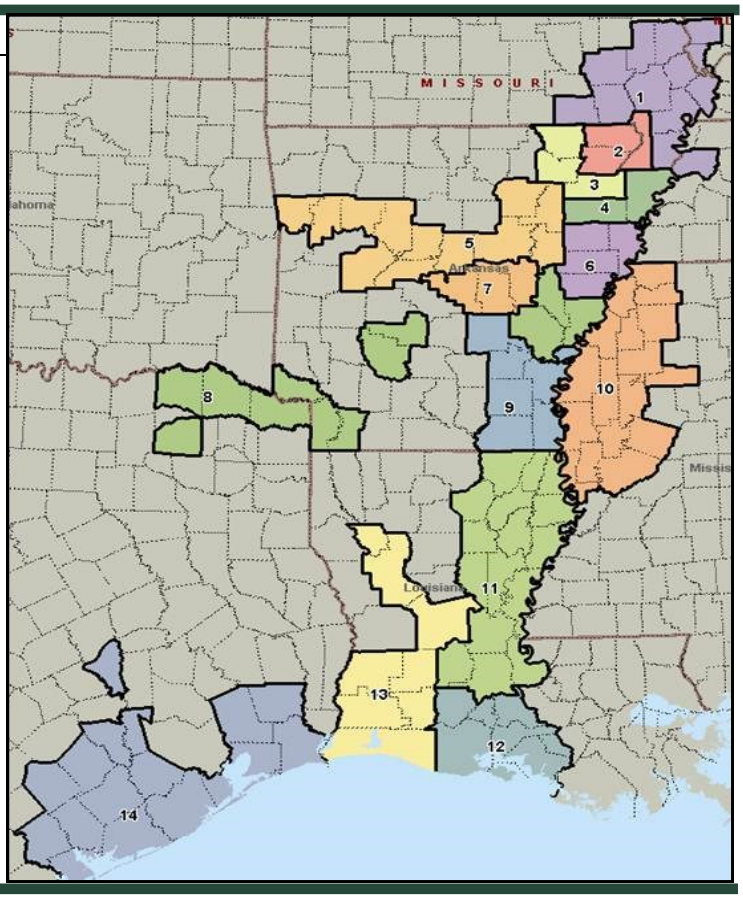
Districts 4-7	Jeff Reeves	870-919-6944
Districts 8-10	Jeff Mosley	662-719-1034
Districts 11-14	Mark Spilman	281-389-3527

Customer Service Contacts

	Carla Sullins	870-578-1822
Toll-Free	Sarah Parks	877-580-7423



Email addresses for RiceTec representatives available at www.RiceTec.com