Looking for advice this season?

Your local Dow AgroSciences representative is available to answer any questions you have regarding rice production.

Viator works as the crawfish and rice grower for Clint Feyou, who also farms primarily sugarcane and soybeans and raises cattle on almost 10,000 acres in Louisiana. Last year, Viator raised 670 acres of crawfish, and almost 200 of those acres were used to grow rice at the same time.

Viator says they had success using RebelEX® herbicide for weed control last year, and he plans to use it again this year.

“It’s effective,” he says of RebelEX. “One of the ponds was really dirty and had a bunch of indigo and duke grass from the previous crawfish season, and it did a good job cleaning that up.”

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Thinking back to his first season of growing rice and crawfish, Viator says that, although it was successful, he sees it simply as another aspect of his dream job.

“For me, it’s like growing anything else — it’s just being a farmer,” he says. “Planting something and saying, ‘I grew that.’”
Wayne Dulaney is not only a crop adviser to rice, soybean and corn growers in his area, he also is a rice grower. He knows firsthand the challenges that rice growers face.

The Clarksdale, Mississippi, grower interned as a rice scout in college and then started working with a distributor after graduating from Mississippi State University. After four seasons he returned to the family business, Dulaney Seed, in 1999.

Dulaney was overseeing seed production and outside sales while also doing rice consulting work for his customers. In addition, he helped train other producers and employees to scout rice fields.

“The grower relationships built over those years really put me on a path to help scout and advise other growers’ operations,” he says. “The grower relationships built over those years really put me on a path to help scout and advise other growers’ operations,” he says.

Q&A AGRONOMY EXPERTS

Extension rice specialist at the Louisiana State University AgCenter, Dr. Johnny Saichuk, and Dr. Bob Scott, Extension weed specialist at the University of Arkansas, weigh in on the latest issues impacting rice growers.

Q: HOW DO YOU WORK WITH GROWERS?

SAICHUK: I get a lot of calls throughout the season, and I constantly stay in the field. We go to the different parishes and visit growers and consultants and look at all situations. It’s my job to bring back the research and disseminate it to growers.

Q: WHAT CHALLENGES ARE GROWERS FACING?

SCOTT: In Arkansas, this year has been pretty typical for rice production. Where preemergence herbicides were not used or failed to get activated, we will be dealing with bigger grass and weed issues, and that can be tough. Overall, the problem with resistant barnyardgrass continues to grow. An increasing number of populations are becoming resistant to certain herbicides. In addition, we have new concerns about resistance to the ALS chemistry in various species of marestail.

Q: WHAT SHOULD GROWERS AND CONSULTANTS BE DOING NOW?

SAICHUK: We will be finished with most of our post-flood applications in Louisiana. By the first week of June, we like to have the first herbicide applied and fields flooded, but it doesn’t always work that way. In the southern part of the state, we are top-dressing our fields with nitrogen, conducting any salvage weed control and monitoring any insects. In north Louisiana, we are finishing our herbicide applications.

SCOTT: Hopefully, by this time, most fields are done in terms of weed control in Arkansas. Most of the activity will be scouting levees and watching for late-emerging, problematic broadleaf weeds like sorsobia and joanthetch. It is important to check harvest intervals and crop tolerances (cutoffs) when making late applications in rice.

DON’T LET WEEDS OVERTAKE RICE.

By Drew Ellis, Market Development Specialist, Dow AgroSciences

It’s important to have a post-flood weed control strategy to grow a healthy and profitable rice crop. These agronomic tips can help mitigate weeds and maximize yield potential.

1. MAKE SCOUTING PART OF THE ROUTINE

Weeds missed in a pre-flood application can cost in yield if they are not effectively controlled post-flood. Scout fields for weeds throughout the entire growing season before they become too large to manage. Timing is critical to control high-anxiety weeds after a field is flooded because difficult weeds are easier to handle if they are caught at the recommended sizes for herbicide applications.

If difficult-to-control weeds escape pre-flood herbicide applications, growers should have a post-flood management program in their back pocket.

2. ACHIEVE BROAD-SPECTRUM CONTROL

Grasp® XR herbicide can effectively clean up a broadleaf mess. Its two modes of action deliver outstanding broad-spectrum control of weeds that escape pre-flood applications in conventional and CLEARFIELD® production systems. RebelEX® herbicide is another excellent weed control tool with two modes of action that offers broad spectrum control of resistant weeds. It can be applied in one pass post-flood up to 60 days before harvest.

3. FILL IN COVERAGE GAPS

With crop canopies becoming more established closer to post-flood timing, herbicide application coverage can become a greater issue in weed management.

For example, hemp sesbania is a primary weed that breaks through rice systems post-flood. To clean up fields and fill in any coverage gaps, Grasp® SC herbicide is a tool that is highly effective against aquatics, and a wide application window provides flexibility.

For information on post-flood applications, visit GraspHerbicide.com or RebelEX.com.