



# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke and Dr. Yeshi Wamishe

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and you'll discover that we were delayed a lot like this way, way back in 2011.

## Planting Forecast

Rain is a four-letter word these days, if you catch my drift. Quite frankly I'm getting tired of writing it. I don't want to talk too bad about it or it might up and disappear when we really need it. So instead I'll hope that we start saving some for later.

It's supposed to rain (a lot) and get nice and chilly. Not just garden-variety chilly, but record-low chilly. Friday is looking like rain most of the day – high of 52, low of 38. Saturday will have a balmy high of 60 with rain slacking off.

On a lighter note, if we can avoid too much rain over the next couple of days, the next significant rain chance is not until Thursday of next week. If we could find a way into a pattern of “a little rain, a few days of work, a little rain, a few days of work...” then we could really get rolling.

USDA planting progress report on Monday indicated that 40% of rice in the state has been planted. With some progress being made this week, we should be in the 45-50% planted range for the next report. We're still doing ok. I think to be a successful farmer you need to be a long-distance runner with a short memory, but sometimes it's ok to look back to gain some perspective. Have a look at **Table 1** to see where our planting progress has been at this point in the season over the past 30 years.

While it's not often that we get delayed this much, it has happened and we still had plenty of success in those years. As a matter of fact, lengthen those short memories just a little bit

**Table 1. First Week of May Planting Progress and Eventual State Average Yield.**

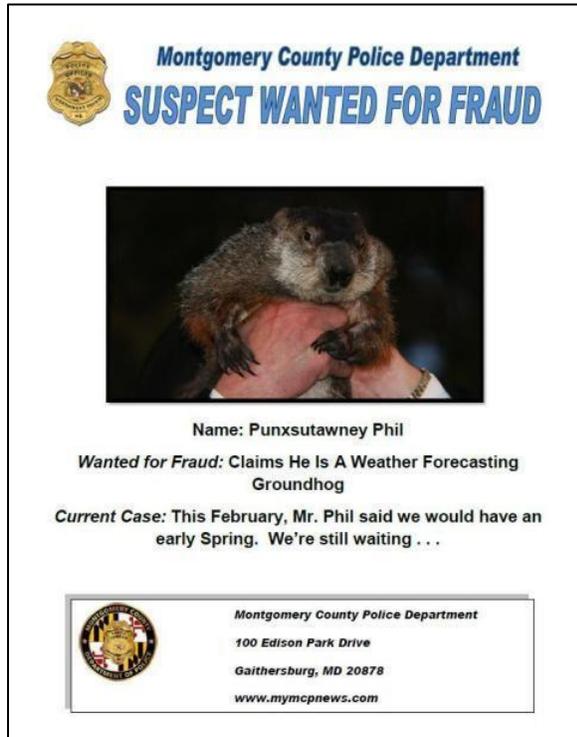
Year	% Planted	Avg. Yield
1981	67	100
1982	17	95
1983	14	95
1984	38	102
1985	39	116
1986	66	118
1987	77	117
1988	45	119
1989	71	124
1990	12	111
1991	22	117
1992	87	122
1993	15	112
1994	65	127
1995	70	121
1996	61	137
1997	60	126
1998	65	129
1999	50	131
2000	71	136
2001	91	141
2002	81	143
2003	87	146
2004	77	155
2005	76	148
2006	94	152
2007	81	161
2008	55	148
2009	63	151
2010	90	144
2011	45	150
2012	97	166
2013	50?	???

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**Picture 1. For those of you in desperate need of a laugh, here's a good one:**



**Picture 2. Survey said...**



**Still More On Aerial Broadcasting and Water-Seeding Treated Rice?**

CruiserMaxx Rice-treated seed cannot be aerially broadcast or water-seeded. Period.

The labels do not prohibit aerially broadcasting rice treated with the fungicides Apron XL, Maxim 4FS, Maxim XL, and Dynasty, or combinations of these. However, this is not a practice recommended by Syngenta.

The labels also do not prohibit water-seeding rice treated with the fungicides Apron XL, Maxim 4FS, Maxim XL, and Dynasty, or combinations of these (only DRY seed; treated rice seed CANNOT be pre-soaked). However, this is also not a practice recommended by Syngenta.

Please remember that broadcasting treated rice seed, either onto dry ground or into standing water, could lead to a significant loss of the treatment and it would be unwise to expect or depend on the full effect of that seed treatment. In other words – don't skimp on the seeding rate if you choose to do this because it is possible you will lose the fungicide before it has a chance to work for you.

**Final Reminder: Do not pre-soak treated rice seed of any kind.**

**Potassium Fertilizer for Rice General Health**

While excessive nitrogen fertilization is sometimes blamed for higher incidence and severity of certain rice diseases, adequate potassium (K) fertilization is praised for improving general crop health. Brown spot disease of rice (**Picture 3**) is one of the indicators that the crop is under some sort of

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stress, likely potassium deficiency. Rice that is potassium deficient is usually shorter and may not have a “lush green” appearance after nitrogen fertilizer application. When you walk in rice fields low in potassium, you get a feeling that something is not right with the crop.

**Picture 3. Brown spot disease of rice.**



Stem rot of rice (**Picture 4**) is the other disease that serves as an indicator of potassium deficiency. We also think low potassium in soil may play a role in increasing the severity of rice bacterial panicle blight. Past research has indicated that *Cercospora* leaf spot, sheath blight, sheath rot, and blast may be observed more frequently in fields with excessive nitrogen fertilization.

Other opportunistic fungi also may take advantage and attack “the potassium hungry crop”. We can literally say that the “immune system” of the crop is compromised when the crop is low in potassium. Low potassium affects canopy photosynthesis – directly affecting crop growth. Potassium is important throughout the

crop life cycle to increase the grain yield potential of your crop.

**Picture 4. Stem rot disease of rice.**



Plants take up potassium in large amounts to accomplish several physiological activities important for good plant growth and health. Nutrient deficiencies need to be corrected early in the season – don’t wait until after the damage is done.

For more information on potassium requirements and fertilization of rice, please visit:

<http://www.arkansas-crops.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/FSA-2165.pdf>.

### Additional Information

Arkansas Rice Updates are published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to [jhardke@uaex.edu](mailto:jhardke@uaex.edu).

This information will also be posted to the Arkansas Row Crops where additional

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information from Extension specialists can be found. Please visit the blog at <http://www.arkansas-crops.com/>

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