

Coastal-Hybrid Rice Harvest

Yielding Excellent Results

Growers Already Ordering RiceTec Hybrid Rice Seed For Next Year

ALVIN, TEXAS

Early reports indicate that this year's hybrid rice harvest in the Texas and Louisiana Coastal regions will exceed previous years'.

As of Aug. 1, Texas hybrid rice yields are up, according to Mark Spillman, technical services representative for RiceTec's Texas District 8.

A 242-acre field of CLEARFIELD XL729 made 64 barrels per acre (230 bushels/acre) in Matagorda County in late July, as did a 200-acre field of CLEARFIELD XL745. In Colorado County, a CLEARFIELD XL745 harvest made 59 barrels per acre (212 bushels/acre) this year, 10 barrels per acre (36 bushels/acre) more than that particular farm has ever made.

As of Aug. 1, Louisiana hybrid rice yields are "off to a very good start," said Cullen Minter, technical services rep for RiceTec's Southwest Louisiana District 7. In Jefferson Davis Parish, where varietal yields typically run 40 barrels an acre (145 bushels/acre), CLEARFIELD XL729 yielded about 52 barrels an acre (188 bushels/acre). Just to the east in Acadia Parish, 305 acres of CLEARFIELD XL730 yielded an average of 58 barrels an acre (209 bushels/acre) on three different fields.

Chad Duckworth, RiceTec's marketing and sales support manager, reports that yields in the Coastal areas of Texas and Louisiana are "better than the past few years. Against varietals, RiceTec Hybrids this year are again consistently producing 20 percent to 30 percent better yields."

This yield is significant given the steadily increasing expenses facing rice growers today, Duckworth continued. "These hybrid yield increases, in conjunction with today's commodity

prices, are generating the potential for incremental revenue from \$250 per acre to \$350 per acre."

Spillman attributes this year's RiceTec Hybrid Rice success to the ability of hybrids to withstand near-drought conditions early in the growing season.

"Early on, the dry conditions caused problems getting a stand on the rice," Spillman explained. "But hybrids simply recover better. Dry weather can actually be of benefit to the hybrids because there is little rain to interfere with pollination. And, as we all know, dry weather minimizes disease pressure, which, despite the hybrids' best-in-class disease package, helps performance."

And while growers had to pump a lot of water into the fields to irrigate the rice, Spillman believes these hardy hybrid yields will help offset the expense of water.

During this growing season, Texas rice growers planted nearly 60,000 acres of RiceTec Hybrid Rice, while Louisiana growers planted more than 100,000 acres.

Spillman said he's getting preorders for RiceTec Hybrid Rice Seed every day in Texas and that those preorders are directly related to the high hybrid yields farmers are experiencing again this year. In total, it is likely that Texas' RiceTec Hybrid Rice acreage will double for next year's growing season.

Louisiana growers are also already ordering RiceTec Hybrid Rice Seed for next year's growing season. "Preorder submission in Louisiana continues to steadily increase. This is especially true for CLEARFIELD XL745," said Minter. "So, if you're interested in CLEARFIELD XL745, you should consider booking soon." △