Greg Simpson, development specialist, RiceTec, explained results of studies from field testing at twenty four locations across the southern U.S.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

Development Testing Research

Simpson: Doing More With Less Is Going To Be Very Important

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Greg Simpson, development specialist, RiceTec, spoke recently on development testing, nitrogen rates, seeding rates, and irrigation and plant pathology studies. "We do field testing at twenty four locations across the southern U.S., we are able to give good information about what works and what doesn't."

"Hybrids have higher nitrogen use efficiency than varieties do every year. The seeding rate studies tell us that hybrids are able to produce very high yields at very low seeding rates and very low plant populations. Irrigation studies tell us that hybrids have higher stress tolerance than varieties do, year in and year out."

Simpson explained when the summer is very hot the hybrid advantage is much larger than in mild years. "Every gallon of water makes more grain when you use it on hybrid rice."

Plant pathology studies conducted indicate, "hybrids have superior field tolerance to sheath blight disease. We have genetic resistance to common blast disease and all other important rice diseases. Quite often growers won't have to apply fungicides to hybrids when you would if you were growing a variety," according to Simpson.

The RiceTec website, www.ricetec.com, has available the 2011 Verified RiceTec Hybrid Yield Trials. Data for growers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas can be found under the Toolbox tab. Δ

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