

New RiceTec Hybrids In The Pipeline

HARRISBURG, ARK.

CLEARFIELD XL745 is being released for broad scale plantings in 2009, and brings improved characteristics of better grain retention and even higher yields than previous hybrids to the marketplace.

We are also excited to introduce at least four new experimental hybrids into large scale testing for 2009. These new products will be in many head-to-head replicated trials in RiceTec and University testing, and so far show great promise and new opportunities for rice growers in the MidSouth and Coastal areas.

At a minimum three of these new hybrids will be tested as conventional, non-Clearfield hybrids. The first of which will offer such improvements as a 15 percent yield advantage over XL723, the highest producing conventional hybrid on the market today. This hybrid will give growers the option to plant the same time as XL723, but spread the harvest window, giving the farmer more flexibility at harvest by

about 5 days. Grain retention will be improved to about the same as varietal rice. The second new hybrid, also non-Clearfield, offers 19 percent higher yield potential than XL723, as well as better grain retention than XL723. The third conventional hybrid to be tested will address the cup weight and "itchiness" of previous hybrids. It is a non-pubescent smooth hull hybrid and brings a 9 percent yield advantage to XL723.

Our Clearfield options will also be expanded. At least one new CLEARFIELD hybrid will be tested in 2009. This hybrid will be just what hybrid growers have been asking for. It brings a 6 percent yield improvement over CLXL729, and is an early semidwarf hybrid. The short stature of this semidwarf hybrid brings improved standability compared to previous hybrids. Also it is 8 days earlier than the earliest hybrid currently available which will again allow for continued planting with a wider harvest window. Δ