

Planning For Rice Harvest



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It is important to plan for rice harvest. The mix of hybrids on your farm and the order in which they were planted can help with determining which fields to harvest first. This year in the Mid-south, planting began in April and extended through June.

Hopefully this will mean that all the rice on your farm won't be ready at the same time. RiceTec recommends harvesting hybrid rice between 18 and 20 percent moisture. This will not only preserve milling quality, but maximize grain retention and returns. Once moisture levels fall below 16 percent, fissuring can occur as the kernels dry and rapidly rewet. When fissuring occurs, it is likely that the kernel will break during the milling process.

RiceTec hybrids range in maturity from early to late. For example, CL XP4534 and XP4523

are very early, at least a week earlier than CLXL745. The hybrids also vary with regards to grain retention. XL753, for example, has above average grain retention and XL723 is below average. Being mindful of plant maturity, grain retention characteristics and emergence dates can help you plan your harvest strategy this fall.

What about harvest aids? Deciding to apply desiccants such as Sodium Chlorate should be carefully planned as well. Over drying of the grain and loss of quality can occur. Weather conditions, hybrid maturity and harvest efficiency should all be calculated to limit grain exposure after application. The general recommendation for Sodium Chlorate is to apply 3-6 pounds of active ingredient per acre at or below 25 percent moisture with expected harvest in 3-5 days.

If you have questions about proper harvest moisture content for RiceTec hybrids, contact your local Technical Services Representative. Δ

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