

Rice Seed Available

RiceTec Has Quality Seed On Hand For 2009 Planting Season

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Quality seed at quantities not available before is the name of the game for RiceTec this year. Chad Duckworth, Marketing and Sales Support Manager for RiceTec, explained the seed supply situation recently.

"We had increased yields and parent line performance," he said. "The weather cooperated this year and gave us better seed yields than we were expecting. During the processes of conditioning and quality checks, cleanouts were lower than previous years and the quality came back better as well."

There are multiple aspects that relate to quality, he said.

"Germination is one aspect of it and another aspect is the hybridity," Duckworth explained. "The past couple of years when the weather was not as ideal as it was this past year we had encountered some specific fields that had lower hybridity due to the weather's effect on pollination during flowering in some of the fields being field grown for seed production. This year the outcrossing seemed to be better than the last couple of years had been, so we had higher level of true hybrid seed produced, compared to our plan based on the historical turnout of the past couple of years. Higher rates of hybridity equates to more available seed."

Therefore, the 2009 crop will be better than it had been historically.

"We can't predict how the weather will affect final yield, but at least as far as the seed being planted it will be," he promised. "Naturally, the environment and weather will tell the end tale as to how commercial field yields turn out, but as far as planting goes, the seed is of higher quality (germination) than last year's was."

In other words, it should germinate and come up better and more consistently, providing bet-

ter stands.

"More uniform germination will result in uniform stand establishment," Duckworth added.

Last year the majority of the seed was produced in Texas, however a few years back it was produced approximately 60/40 in Texas to Northeast Arkansas. Contrary to previous years, there's also a greater abundance of hybrids, and farmers wishing to use a particular hybrid should be able to get it.

"We are, however, sold out of our most recent releases, CLEARFIELD XL745 and CLEARFIELD XL746," he added. "The new varieties, the CLEARFIELD XP746 and the CLEARFIELD XL745 were in short supply compared to demand, but we had CLEARFIELD XL729 and our conventional hybrid XL723, that were the main products produced this year and all had very good yields. We do have some seed supply available of CLEARFIELD XL729 and XL723."

With planting possibly going into the first or second week of June, farmers should be getting their supplies now.

"If people jump in, make a decision pretty quick we could be sold out in just a couple of days," Duckworth said. "But if the weather keeps raining, then people's decisions will be drug out and we could end up in June still with a little bit of seed left."

Duckworth also plugged another product called the Clearfield Hybrid Levee Blend that has been produced to be a good fit on the levees of the Clearfield hybrid fields, letting CLEARFIELD hybrid customers have the option to plant a hybrid instead of planting a Clearfield variety that is more susceptible to disease and possibly a different maturity.

"The cost for this variety will be about the same as the cost to plant a variety on the levees," he said. △



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