

TALK

Loyant

BECAUSE RICE MATTERS.

MARCH 2018

EVALUATING LOYANT™ HERBICIDE IN A WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Arkansas crop consultant Lance Ramthun assessed Loyant™ herbicide in the section of his grower's field with the highest weed pressure. He's glad he did.

The 5-acre plot that Ramthun calls "historically foul" was treated last April 17 with a per-acre rate of 10 ounces of Command herbicide and 5 ounces of NEWPATH herbicide.

On May 28, the field had one- to two-tiller barnyardgrass, four-leaf signalgrass, pigweed and morningglory. A weather-delayed treatment of 4 ounces of NEWPATH and 1 pint of Loyant was sprayed June 5. The field was flooded three days after the herbicide application.

"Since my young consultant days, I've been taught that when barnyardgrass puts on a tiller, you're done. You might make it sick but you're not going to kill it," says Ramthun of Crop Solutions LLC in Jonesboro, Arkansas. "I joke that when the clock strikes midnight on May 31, we can't kill weeds. It's too hot for applications, there's too much sunlight, and weeds grow exponentially compared to May. You just cannot get a good kill.

"I was happy to put Loyant to this kind of test because it was set up for failure given the timing, weed size and spectrum, especially with pigweed and barnyardgrass."

DON'T BE QUICK TO JUDGE

Ramthun's general manager, Jordan Hawkins, went to inspect the trial three days after application when the permanent flood was established.

"Jordan called me and said, 'It's not going to work. I can't tell a single thing. I don't see any kind of symptomology.' Two days later, Jordan called again and said, 'I take back

my initial assessment. I've never seen anything like this. That grass is exactly where it was. It still doesn't look like it's dead, but it's floating on top of the water. I can reach down and break it off at the crown and it's like glass. Everything is brittle. It's done," Ramthun recalls.



LANCE RAMTHUN
CROP CONSULTANT

Ramthun says their experience offers a valuable lesson for others: Don't judge the weed control activity of Loyant based on your experience with other herbicides.

"We were extremely impressed with the results. What it did to the pigweed in about 36 hours was amazing," he says. "Due to extenuating circumstances, we had fresh levees with exposed tops – no rice or canopy to compete with weeds. I would have been happy if it killed one pigweed, but it controlled 95 percent of them.

"The field was clean of grasses. It's tough to kill barnyardgrass in that field, but I've never been under the assumption that it was resistant – until this year. Our Loyant plot looked a whole lot better than our NEWPATH section did."

Now a strong believer in the new weed control technology Loyant™ herbicide offers, Ramthun plans to recommend it in a broad range of situations.

"It's something that we need tremendously. I am hoping we can program it into a rice herbicide portfolio to make our operations and applications more effective," he says.

Visit LoyantProtects.com for more information, field expert videos and field images.

CLEAN FIELDS DESPITE SOIL CHALLENGES



ELMER SMITH
CPS CONSULTANT
BLACKFISH, ARKANSAS

“It didn’t look like a rice field. It looked like a grass patch when we started,” says CPS consultant Elmer Smith of Blackfish, Arkansas, describing a 40-acre, freshly level field that had been fallow for five years.

“It was a grown-up mess,” Smith says. “Just about any weed species you found in eastern Arkansas was in this field.”

VULNERABLE START TO SEASON

A rice crop on fields recently leveled should not receive a preemergence herbicide application. When land formed, matter is moved around making areas of the field with low organic matter, creating potential for crop injury, Smith says.

After the rice was planted, Smith faced a second obstacle. Early rains and heavy Sharkey clay soil prevented ground equipment from making a postemergence herbicide application.

“The soil was heavy – the kind of mud that will suck your shoes off,” Smith recalls.

GRASS OUTSIZES RICE

Without herbicide applications, the barnyardgrass flourished, ranging from just emerged to almost tillered. Smith knew he needed a strong herbicide program to save the field. He recommended 20 ounces of RebeLEX® herbicide, 21 ounces of FACET L herbicide and 1 quart of MSO surfactant per acre.

“The grass was much bigger than the rice,” Smith says. “The main reason I chose RebeLEX was because of the barnyardgrass. We’ve had FACET-resistant grass for several years.”

He waited until rice reached the three- to four-leaf stage before the aerial application and then flooded two weeks later. The rice needed to be that size for FACET to be applied to the cut ground without hurting the crop, Smith explains.

“The combination did a really good job,” Smith says. “The RebeLEX did an excellent job. I was shocked that it killed even the most mature grasses.”

ALTERNATE OPTIONS COSTLY

When he first evaluated the field, Smith told the farmer that it may seem costly upfront but if this was the only application they needed, he would save money and boost yield.

“If RebeLEX wasn’t an option, my only choice would be to apply FACET, flood and come back with Clincher,” Smith says. “It would have required two applications and cost more. We wouldn’t have killed all the grasses, and yield would suffer.”

For Smith, the most important outcome was that his customer was happy.

For more information on RebeLEX® herbicide, visit 504MoreHours.com.



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– Elmer Smith, consultant

ASK THE EXPERT



RYAN MILLER
MARKET DEVELOPMENT
SPECIALIST

- B.S., Florida Southern College
- M.S., University of Florida
- Ph.D., University of Arkansas

HOW HAS HERBICIDE RESISTANCE IMPACTED RICE PRODUCTION?

— ARKANSAS RICE GROWER.

The Midsouth accounts for more than 90 of the 160 unique herbicide resistance cases documented nationwide. More than half of the resistance cases in the United States are right here in our own backyard, and about 20 of the more than 90 cases have been documented in rice.

Barnyardgrass is consistently ranked as the most problematic weed in rice production. In the Midsouth, it has evolved resistance to herbicide chemistries such as propanil, clomazone (Command), quinclorac (FACET) and ALS inhibitors.

It's not uncommon in the Midsouth to find barnyardgrass that is resistant to multiple chemistries in a single field.

The evolution of resistance has significantly increased rice production inputs and associated costs. Rice growers can spend more than twice as much as corn and soybean growers on an effective herbicide program.

Difficulty in controlling problematic weeds such as barnyardgrass created a demand for new technology. Loyant™ herbicide is a new product available this season. It brings a new class of Group 4 auxin technology that controls ALS-, glyphosate-, ACCase- and triazine-resistant biotypes as well as other Group 4-resistant weeds, including quinclorac.

It is important to protect new technologies and maintain the effectiveness of current products through stewardship practices. Always apply full labeled rates, rotate effective modes of action and make timely herbicide applications.

RICE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SHOWS VERSATILITY OF RICE



Copious research. Tedious work. Contemporary thinking. It's a winning combination for rice production and for the USA Rice Federation's National Rice Month Scholarship Contest grand-prize entry.

Jared Fitton, winner of the 2017 scholarship sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, received a \$4,000 scholarship and a trip for two to the 2017 USA Rice Outlook Conference.

A self-proclaimed computer science nerd, Fitton attends Santa Barbara High School Computer Science Academy in Santa Barbara, California. His winning entry was a stop-motion video created to help promote, and increase awareness of, U.S.-grown rice.

VISUAL STORYTELLING

"A stop-motion video helped show the versatility of rice by changing shapes created out of grains to tell the story," Fitton says.

Stop-motion is an animation technique to make static objects, in this case rice, appear as though they are moving. For seven hours, Fitton slowly moved rice into different images and captured every small movement with a picture.

CELEBRATING RICE PRODUCTION

A program greatly increases the speed at which the pictures are viewed to give the illusion of movement, and Fitton recorded voice-over that paired with video. "National Rice Month is a time to celebrate the hard work that rice farmers put into making one of American's favorite grains," Fitton says in the video introduction.

Go to thinkrice.com/scholarship for more information and to view Fitton's video, titled *Rice in Motion*, and all the video entries. Olivia Davis of Shreveport, Louisiana, took second place and a \$3,000 scholarship, and the third-place award of \$1,500 went to Jessa Goodeaux of Lonsdale, Arkansas.

Dow AgroSciences LLC
9330 Zionsville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268



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