

# TALK *Level*

BECAUSE RICE MATTERS.

MAY 2018

## RICE CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Robb Dedman, owner of Ultimate Ag Consulting in Rison, Arkansas, is the inaugural winner of the Rice Consultant of the Year award. Sponsored by Dow AgroSciences and *Rice Farming* magazine, the award recognizes dedication, leadership and innovation.

“It was a great honor, especially to be the chosen as the first person to receive this award,” Dedman says. “There are a lot of qualified consultants out there.”

The award was presented at a special recognition reception this March at the Peabody Hotel before the 2018 Mid-South Farm & Gin Show in Memphis, Tennessee.

### COMPLETE CONSULTING

Dedman takes a holistic approach to consulting, working with growers year-round to help them make the most of their operations.

To stay current on industry trends, he takes advantage of learning opportunities available to consultants. Dedman attends field days, takes continuing education courses and is active in the USA Rice Federation.

“You need to know basic agronomics to grow rice. That part is relatively easy,” Dedman says. “But to be good, you need to be active. Be aware of all aspects of rice from chemical rotations to governmental issues that will affect the rice industry.”

### LARGEST OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Dedman says the biggest challenges he and his colleagues face today are managing a wide spectrum of weeds and battling herbicide resistance. He believes Loyant™ herbicide will be a game-changer for weed control in the rice industry.

“We did a 5-acre Loyant trial last year on a field that was a mess of resistant barnyardgrass, resistant sedges and



KYLE COLWELL (LEFT), DOW AGROSCIENCES SALES REP, PRESENTS ROBB DEDMAN WITH THE INAUGURAL RICE CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD.

broadleaves,” Dedman says. “We applied Loyant, and in about seven days, it was clean. We walked out in the field, and there was nothing but dead weeds hanging from our boots.”

### STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a priority for Dedman, who works to reduce water and nitrogen use in rice.

“The rice industry has been working on sustainability for several years,” he says. “We use less water, fewer products, less fertilizer and are easier on the environment.”

Dedman focuses on good stewardship of herbicide technologies and the land.

“We are fortunate anytime we get a new product like Loyant because it may help us to reduce the number of chemicals we have to use and have a cleaner crop,” he says. “Propanil came to the market in 1961, and we are still using it today. If we are fortunate enough to keep Loyant around for 57 years like we did propanil, then we’re going to be in pretty good shape.”

# WEEDS TO WATCH

With warmer days comes a new flush of weeds competing with your rice crop for water and nutrients. Early control of grasses and broadleaves can improve your potential yield and harvest efficiency. Below are a few management tips for perpetual problem weeds.

## AMAZON SPRANGLETOP



**Resistance:** Amazon sprangletop resistance to ACCase inhibitors has been documented in Louisiana rice.

**Recommendation:** Control options for Amazon sprangletop include Clincher®

herbicide at a rate of 10 ounces per acre applied early postemergence or RebelEX® herbicide at a rate of 18 fluid ounces per acre at pre-flood. RebelEX provides both postemergence control and residual activity.

## BARNYARDGRASS



**Resistance:** There is widespread documentation of barnyardgrass resistance to multiple herbicide modes of action, including PSII inhibitor (propanil), synthetic auxins (fenoxaprop and quinclorac), ACCase inhibitors,

DOXP inhibitors (clomazone), ALS inhibitors and cellulose inhibitors (quinclorac).

**Recommendation:** Pre-flood options include Loyant™ herbicide at a rate of 1 pint per acre or RebelEX® herbicide at a rate of 18 fluid ounces per acre. Additionally, Grasp® SC herbicide at a rate of 2 fluid ounces per acre applied early postemergence will control barnyardgrass.

## HEMP SESBANIA



**Resistance:** No documented resistance.

**Recommendation:** A pre-flood application of Loyant™ herbicide at a rate of 1 pint per acre is recommended.

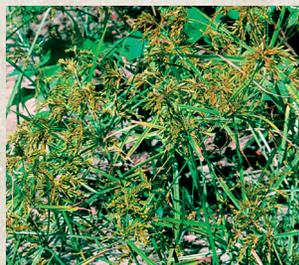
## RED RICE



**Resistance:** ALS resistance was first documented in Arkansas in 2002.

**Recommendation:** Utilizing NEWPATH herbicide in the CLEARFIELD® Production System is best for achieving red rice control.

## RICE FLATSEGE



Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

**Resistance:** Resistance to ALS inhibitors has been documented in the rice-growing states of Arkansas and Louisiana.

**Recommendation:** A pre-flood application of either Loyant™ herbicide at a rate of 1 pint per acre, RebelEX® herbicide at a rate of 18 fluid ounces per acre or Grasp® SC herbicide at a rate of 2 ounces per acre applied early postemergence will provide control.

## YELLOW NUTSEGE



**Resistance:** Resistance to ALS inhibitors was documented in Arkansas in 2013.

**Recommendation:** A pre-flood application of either Loyant™ herbicide at a rate of 1 pint per acre, RebelEX® herbicide at a rate of 18 fluid ounces per acre or Grasp® SC herbicide at a rate of 2 ounces per acre applied early postemergence will provide control.

*Early control of grasses and broadleaves can improve your potential yield and harvest efficiency.*

## ACHIEVE CONTROL



DAVID HOWARD WITH SON SAM IN MISSOURI RICE FIELD.

David Howard has been on farms all his life. Raised on a cotton and soybean farm, he worked summers in college for a consultant and for two years at his brother's custom spraying business. In 2008, Howard started Heartland Crop Consultants in Dexter, Missouri.

"Having a broad range of experiences helps me

make product recommendations," he says. "We want to help customers put their money in the right places."

### WEED CONTROL CHALLENGES

The two biggest weed challenges Howard faces are barnyardgrass and Amazon sprangletop.

"Grasp SC is a good barnyardgrass product, and it helps with aquatics," Howard says. "RebelEX is good for sprangletop and arrowhead control."

Howard was impressed with the test plots for Loyant™ herbicide he saw last year.

**"I see Loyant as a home run on row rice because of the pigweed control."**

**— David Howard**

"Resistance has been getting worse, especially in continuous rice. But new products like Loyant are effective tools against those problems," he says.

Howard has a rice field that was rotated to beans last year for the first time in 20 years.

"As we rotate back to rice, we definitely want Loyant to control resistant-barnyardgrass on those acres," he says.

### NEW PIGWEED CONTROL SOLUTION

Pigweed is problematic in row rice because there isn't a continuous flood, Howard explains. Water runs down the rows and soaks through the beds, creating an ideal environment for pigweed emergence.

"It's important to have a good, thick rice stand to shade out the ground, and use the right product to keep weeds under control," he says. "I see Loyant as a home run on row rice because of the pigweed control."

## PROS AND CONS OF IRRIGATION METHODS

Unorthodox irrigation systems are finding a home in an increasing number of southern rice fields.

Row rice, also known as furrow-irrigated rice, creates three zones in the field — a zone closest to the pipe that is consistently flushed with water, a zone that is intermittently wet and dry, and a zone that remains flooded throughout the season.

The primary benefit is the potential cost savings for fields with a relatively steep grade. No levee construction is required, and more land is back in production.

There are, however, several potential negatives to the system.

- Three irrigation zones create three yield zones.
- Weed and disease control is more difficult.
- Nitrogen management may be compromised.

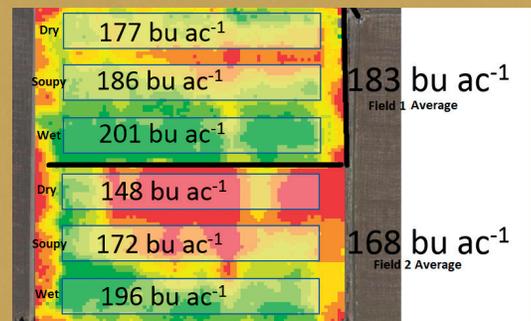
Another option is intermittent flood, or alternative wetting and drying. "It's a happy medium between conventional and furrow-irrigated systems," says Bobby Golden, Mississippi Extension specialist.

A full flood is held for three weeks while pre-flood nitrogen is incorporated. The water is then allowed to recede in the top paddy. Water management tools then determine when the field needs irrigation.

While water use is decreased, as compared with conventionally irrigated rice, a portion of the field will not maintain a full flood.

On the flip side, a full flood is a great tool to aid in weed control and disease management that may be more difficult in alternate irrigation systems.

Golden says research data thus far shows furrow-irrigated rice and alternative wetting and drying systems use approximately the same amount of water. "There is real potential for improved water savings with the two alternative irrigation systems compared to conventional flooding," he says. "However, there may be a yield penalty with furrow-irrigated rice."



Two-year furrow-irrigated rice small plot data at Mississippi State University shows the resulting yield differences.

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Solutions for the Growing World

## DO YOU KNOW A RICE CONSULTANT WHO DESERVES RECOGNITION?



Nominate an outstanding individual for the 2018 Rice Consultant of the Year award by June 30.

Sponsored by Dow AgroSciences and *Rice Farming* magazine, the award recognizes the dedication, leadership and innovation of this crucial segment of the U.S. rice industry.

This year's award winner will be the focus of a four-page feature article in *Rice Farming* magazine and will be recognized at an award reception. Travel and accommodations are included.

Nomination forms are available online at [RiceFarming.com/rcoy](http://RiceFarming.com/rcoy), and forms may be submitted online or by mail.

**For questions, contact Carroll Smith at 901-326-4443 or [csmith@onegrower.com](mailto:csmith@onegrower.com).**