

► Management Practices For Maximizing Yield Potential On Hybrid Rice In The Ratoon Crop

Presented by Cullen Minter

District Manager (Southwest LA), RiceTec, Inc.

RiceTec hybrid rice genetics provide an excellent disease package and yield advantage. These attributes also make RiceTec hybrids a smart choice for maximizing second crop yields. In recent years, more research has been conducted to discover ways to maximize second crop yields via management practices. Stubble manipulation is a proven way to increase second crop yields. Mowing the stubble immediately after harvest to a height of 8 inches should increase yield potential by 500-1000 Lbs. /acre. Mowing does several things to benefit the second crop: 1. It forces the plant to regrow from a lower node. 2. It clears the way for sunlight to keep photosynthesis efficient. 3. It creates a more even maturing field, thus increasing ratoon grain quality. 4. It helps lower disease pressure. I will also discuss the pros and cons of rolling stubble, and how rolled stubble should be managed differently than mowed stubble.

Over a decade of conducting large scale and small plot trials has shown us that RiceTec Hybrids tend to mature faster in the second crop than varietal rice, in some cases regardless of main crop maturity. This has allowed some farmers to extend cut off days for stubble manipulation and nitrogen fertilization, and still harvest the second crop in a timely manner. Care must be taken to avoid being too aggressive, too late, in order to avoid the risk of cold weather damage. In order to help attendees maximize yield with RiceTec hybrid second crop, we will discuss recommended cut-off dates for stubble manipulation and nitrogen fertilization more in depth.