

Cultivated Wild Rice Production in the United States

1997

Overview: Summary information about production of wild rice is difficult to obtain because it is either out-of-print or appears in different locations. The best introductory document "Wild Rice Production in Minnesota" and many other documents are out of print. The best drawings and color pictures of wild rice production appear in several documents, not a single summary. Although, there are less than 100 growers of cultivated wild rice in the United States, there is a need to summarize the best basic information about cultivation in a single document. This document would be useful as a refresher course for experienced growers in understanding the principles of production of the crop. Also, by bringing together the existing body of knowledge of cultivated wild rice, it would lay a path for development of new knowledge about production of the crop.

Purpose: The emphasis of this handbook will be upon production of cultivated wild rice. Growers will be able to use the information in this handbook to produce cultivated wild rice in an environmentally sound and economical manner. A limited press run (~ 250) of a very high quality publication would target the needs of existing wild rice growers. Line art would clearly explain the basics of growth and management of *Zizania palustris* L., the species commonly cultivated in the United States. The document would contain numerous full color pictures of diseases, insects and other production problems to assist growers in the diagnosis and correction of common production problems and their solution. The handbook would contain minimal information about the history of the crop and little economic information.

Timeline: This handbook will be produced as a joint effort of the University of Minnesota and the University of California. It will be drafted jointly and approved through the protocol of both institutions in the calendar year 1997. Publication will be no later than December 31, 1997. Delivery of copies will be in early 1998.

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I. Preface

1. Era before cultivation - pre 1950's
2. Era of first cultivation - 1950's and 1960's
3. Era of expansion - 1970's and 1980's
4. Era of market development - 1990's

II. Introduction

1. Goals
2. Overview of production handbook organization

III. The crop

1. Species
2. Areas of production

IV. Paddies

1. Land - construction of paddies
2. Irrigation system design

V. Nutrient and Water Management

1. Fertilizer
2. Water

VI. Seed

1. Characteristics
2. Storage
3. Planting new stands
4. Management of existing stands

VII. Growth of the crop during the season

1. Stand establishment
2. Midseason
3. Maturity

VIII. Harvest

IX. Processing

X. Pest Management

1. Weeds
2. Diseases
3. Insects
4. Birds and other vertebrate pests
5. Abiotic problems (sulfide and salts)

XI. Appendix

1. Other sources of information