

# Wild Rice

Manoomin



*Cultural*



Wild rice has more places named after it than any other plant in N. America

- Lake Poygan (gathering rice)
- Menominee County
- Lake Menomin
- City of Rice Lake
- City of Menomonie

# Wild Rice (*Zizania palustris*)



# Habitat Preferences

- Water depths 1- 3 foot
- Water not acidic or darkly stained
- Alkalinity 5-250ppm >40 best
- Annual water level fluctuations not excessive - year to year not too stable
- Organic, mucky substrate (preferred)
- Slow flowing waters



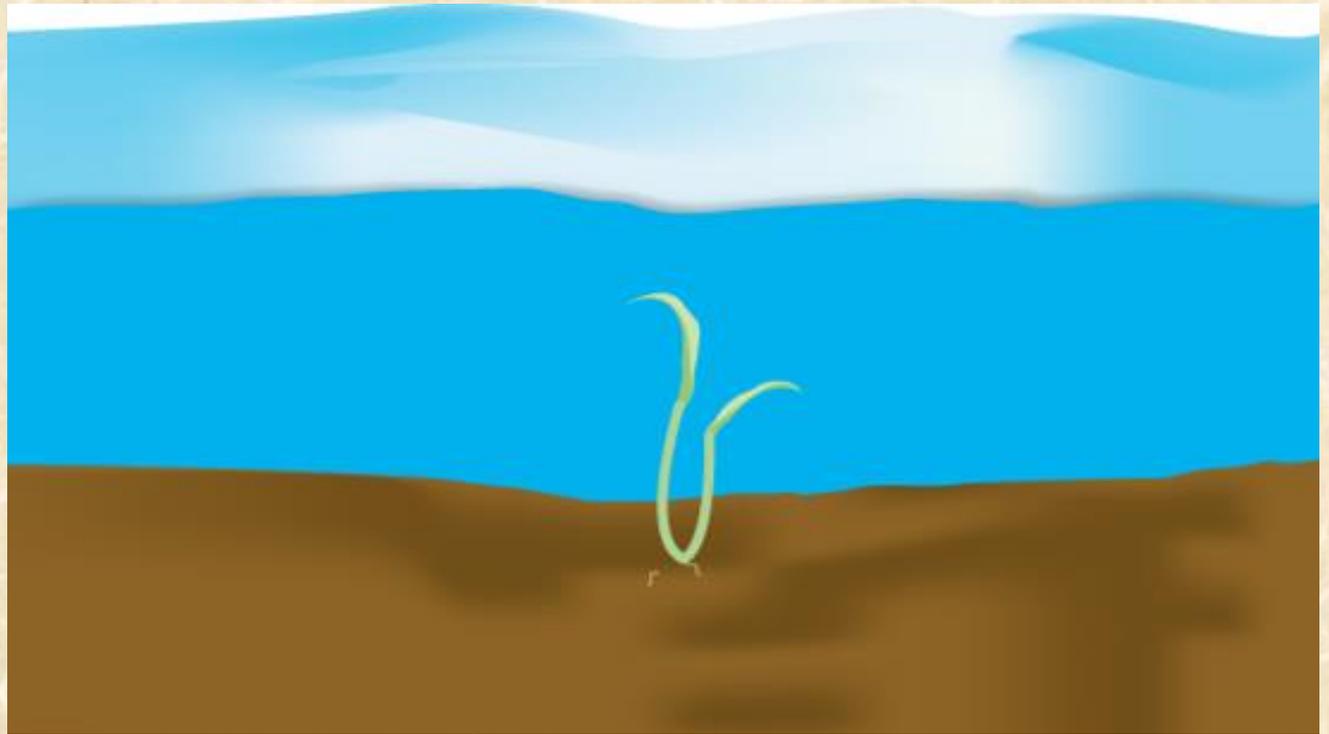
# Germination

- *Early Spring*



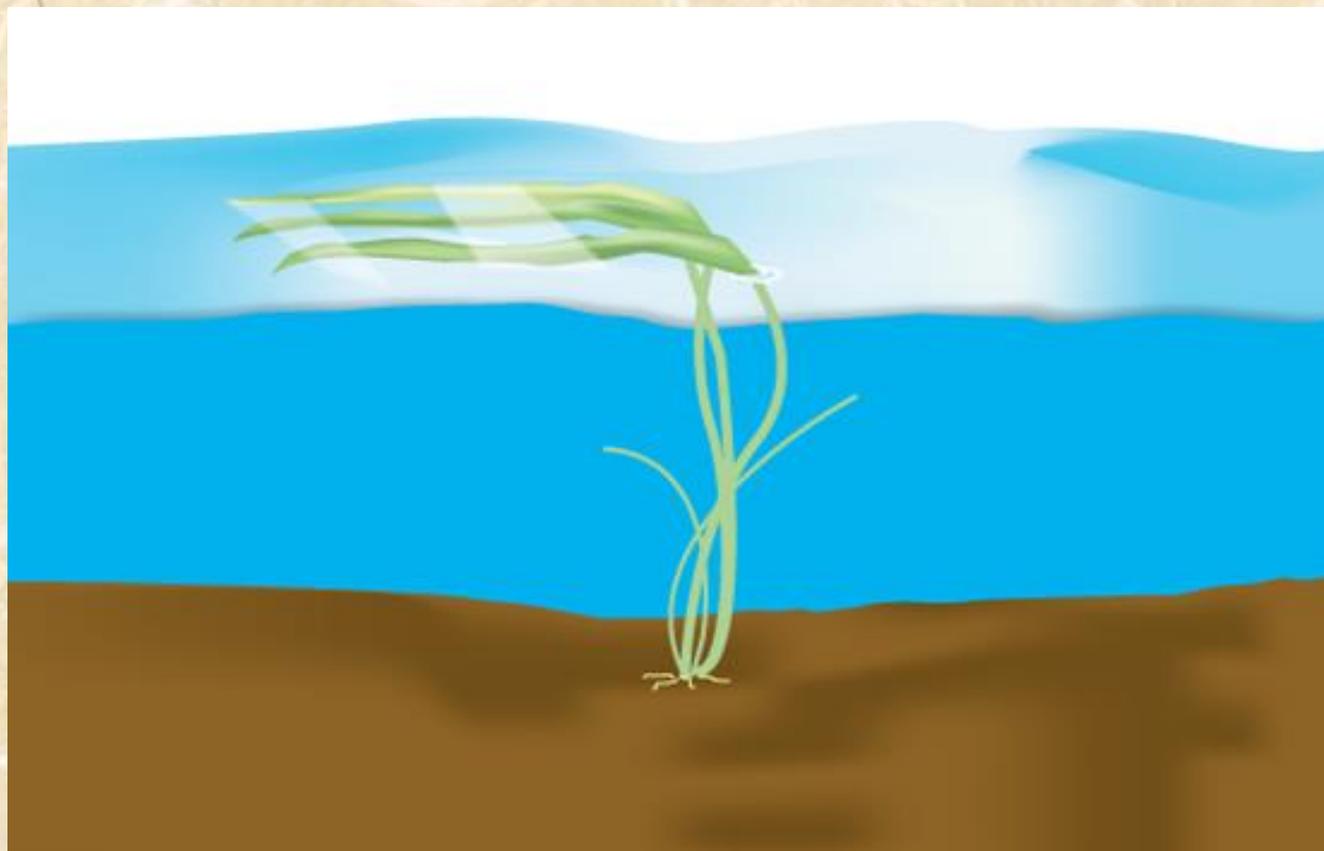
# Submerged Leaf

- *May - June*



# Floating Leaf

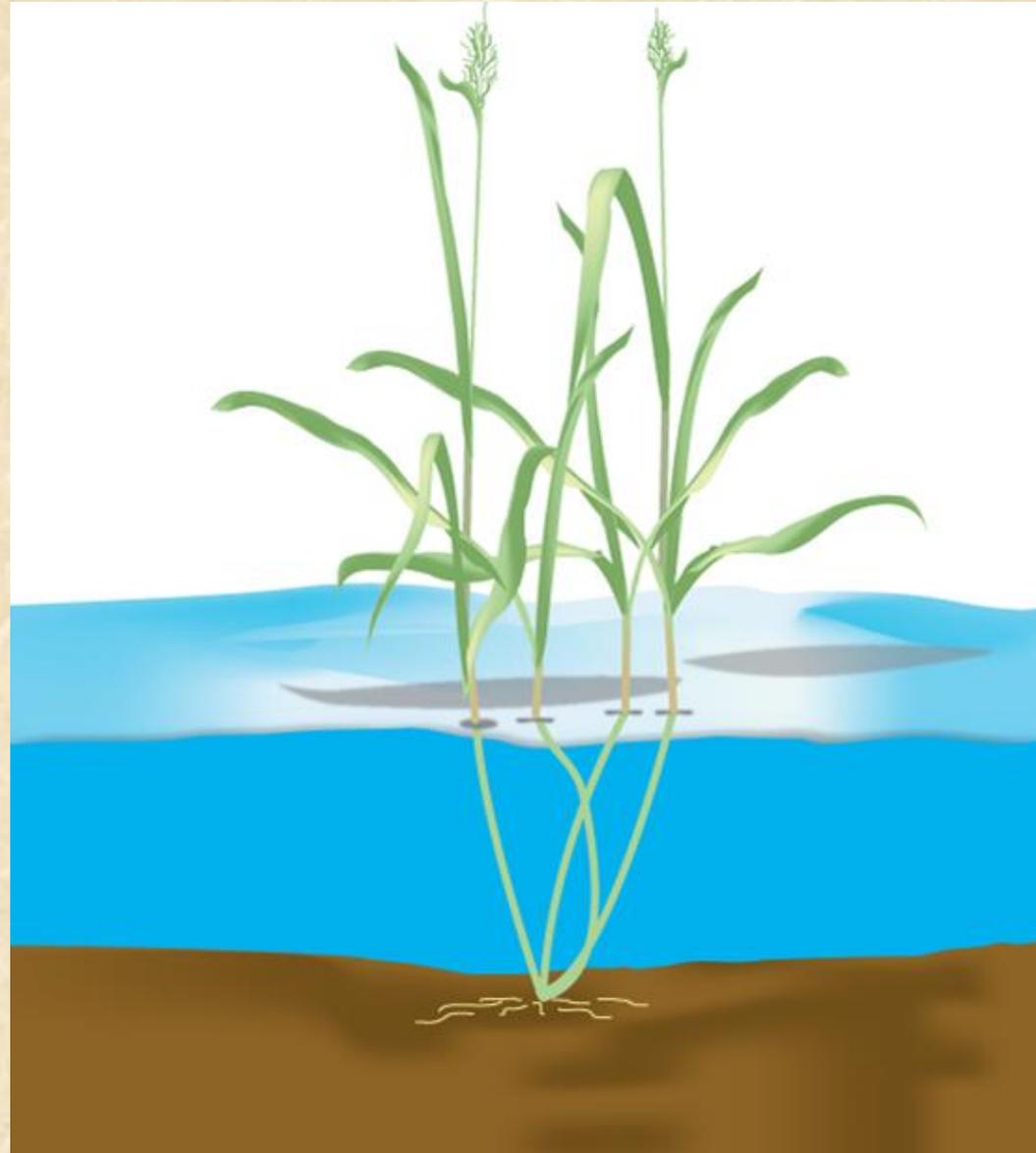
- *Mid-June*



# Life Cycle

## Aerial Leaf

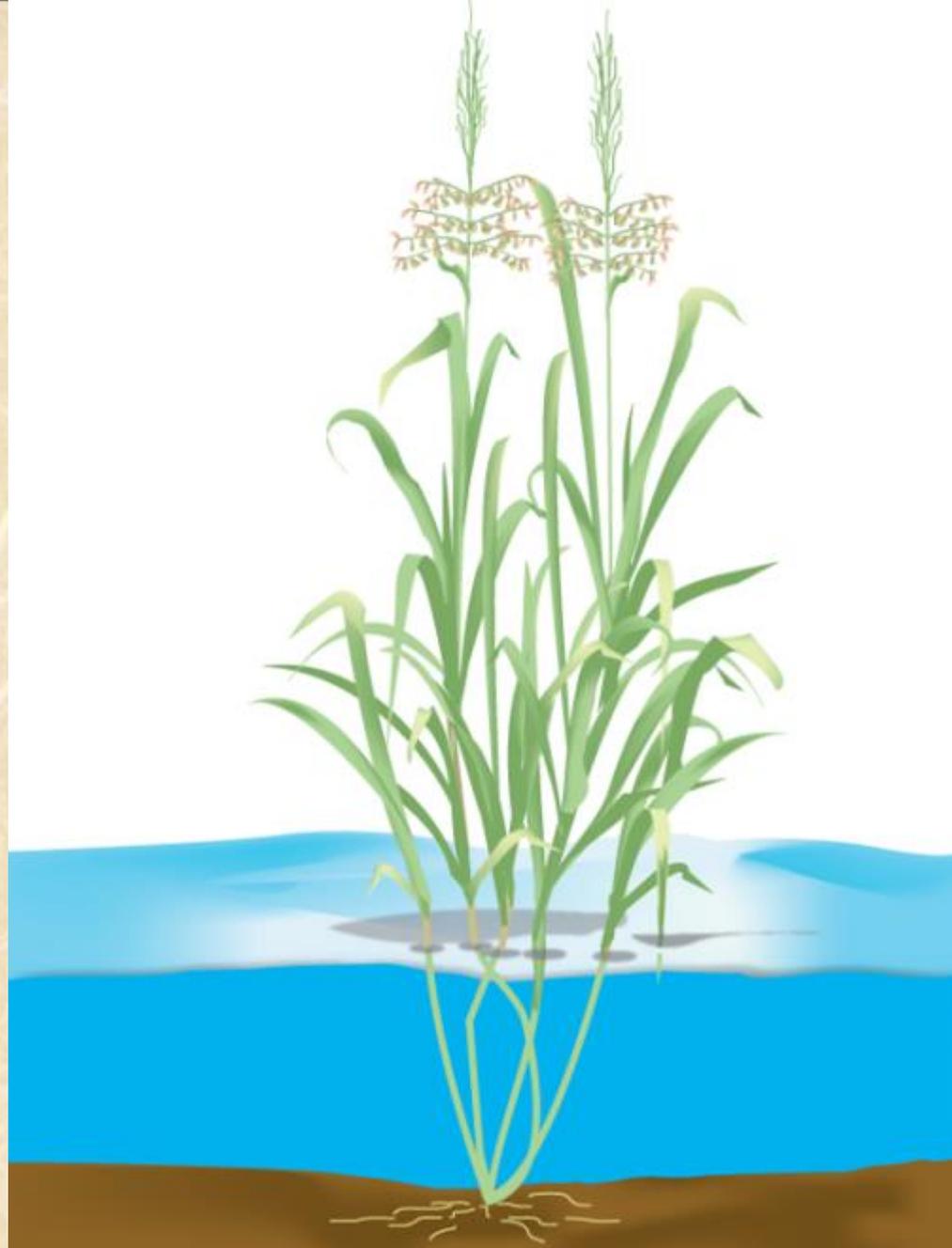
- *Mid-July*



# Life Cycle

## Flowering

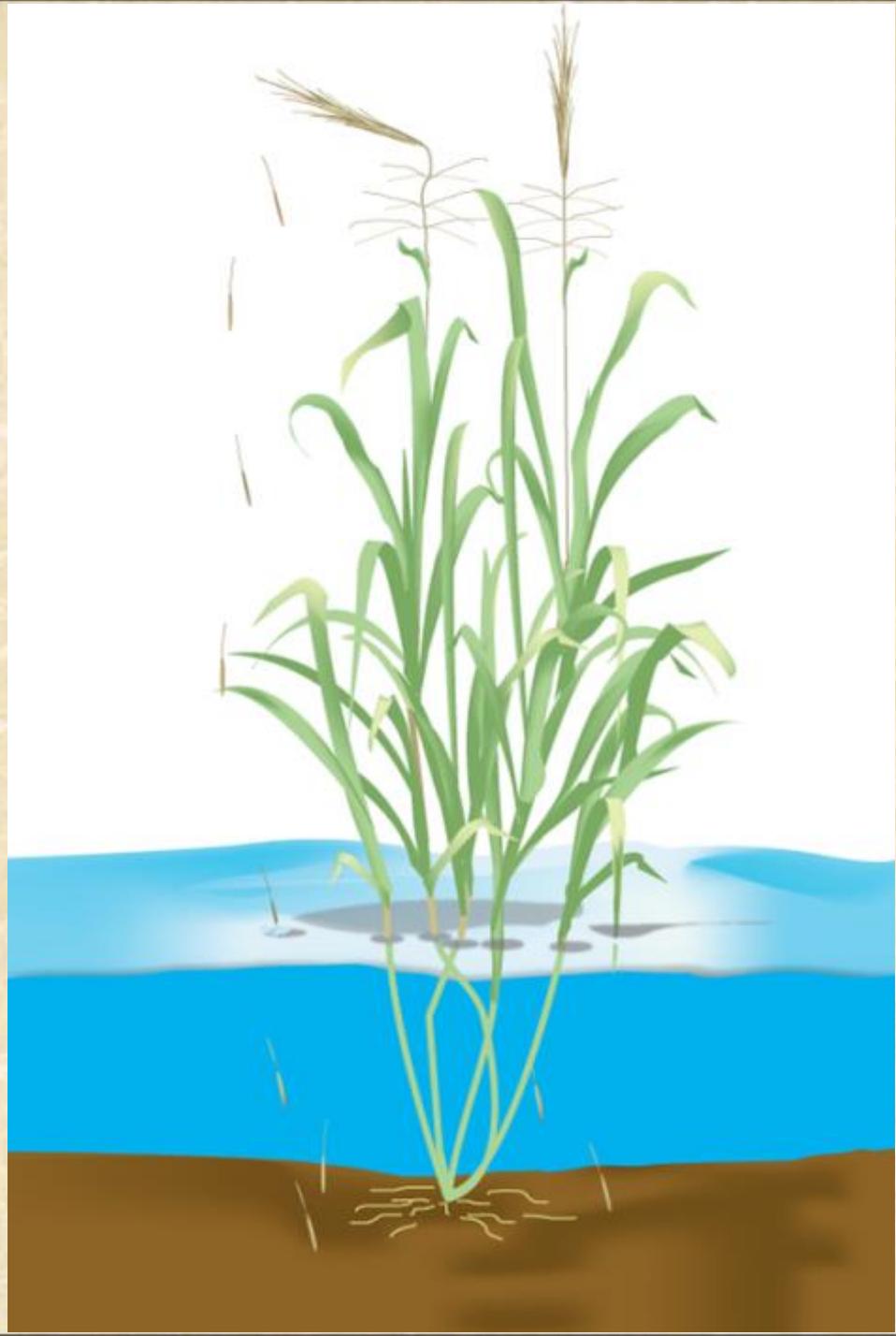
- *July - August*



# Life Cycle

## Mature Seed

- *August - September*



# *Life Cycle*



# Life Cycle



# Harvesting



Harvesting

Timing is everything...



# Harvesting



# Harvesting



# Harvesting



An aerial photograph showing a large body of water. In the foreground, a significant portion of the water is covered with a dense, bright green mat of harvested vegetation, likely duckweed or similar aquatic plants, arranged in neat, parallel rows. The water in the background is dark blue and reflects the surrounding green forest on the shoreline. A few small buildings and structures are visible along the forested edge.

# Harvesting

150 – 200 lbs/acre

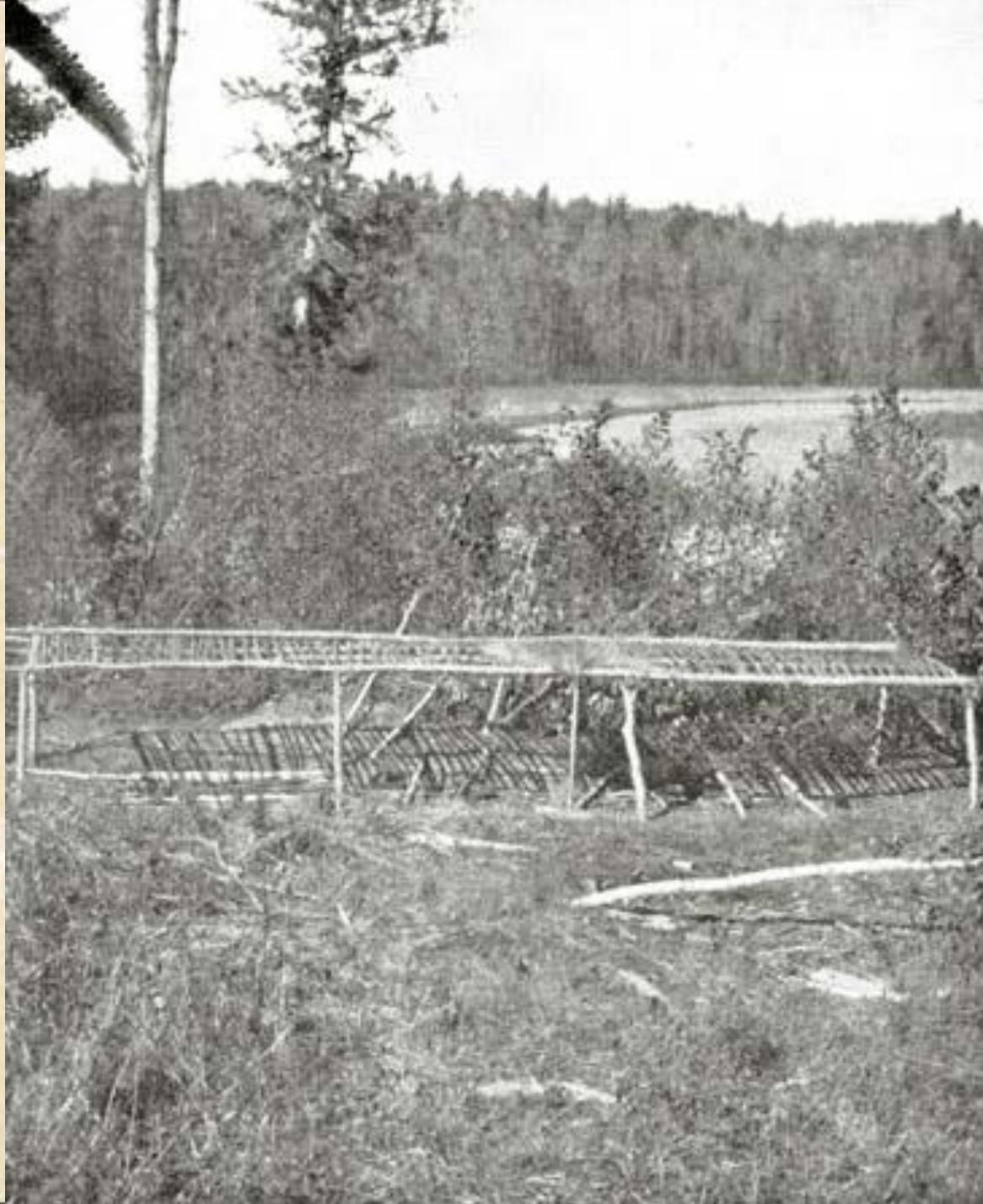


# Finishing



*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*

# Finishing



# Finishing



*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*

*Finishing*



Hulling

“Dancing  
the rice”

*Finishing*



# Finishing



*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*



# Typical Finishing Rates

100 pounds of green rice processed  
yields ~45 to 55 pounds of finished rice

62% @ our place in 2018 & 59% in 2019



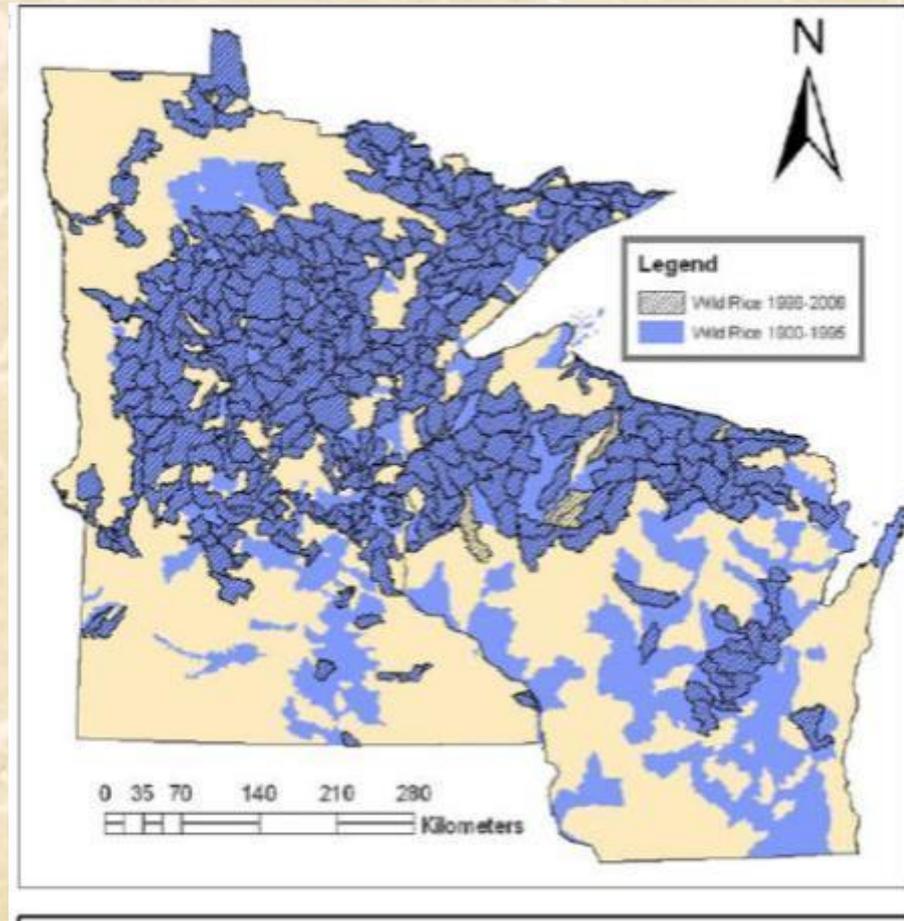
# Wild Rice Harvest Regulations

- State permit required ( $\geq 65$  free)
- Wooden knockers,  $\leq 38$ "
- Boat length  $\leq 17'$  or wider than 38"
- Only with a push-pole or paddles
- 10:00 am to sunset
- Some lakes are date regulated



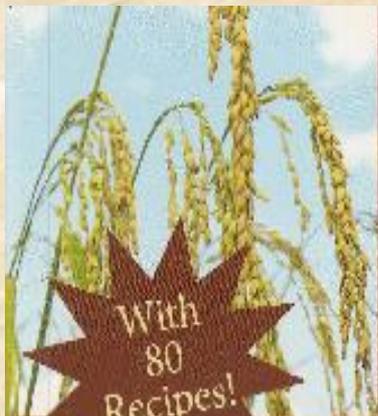


*Range of rice decreased 32% since early 1900s*



# Threats and Opportunities





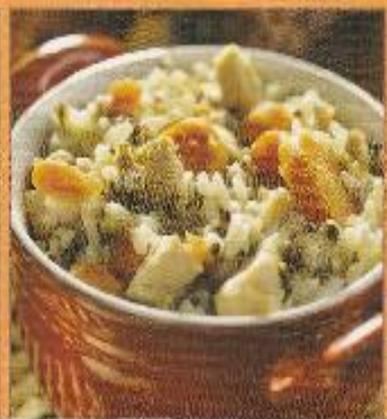
With  
80  
Recipes!



# Wild Rice

AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO COOKING, HISTORY,  
AND HARVESTING

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