

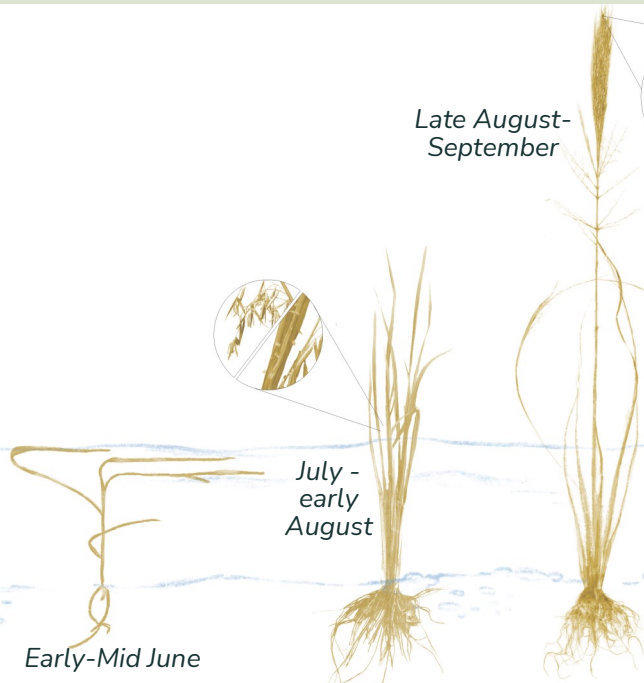
How to Identify Wild Rice

Early summer- The rice's long thin leaves emerge from sediment and float on the surface. Young rice plants are very vulnerable to disturbances.

Mid-summer- Stems 2-6 feet emerge from the water, with flower heads beginning.

Late summer- Depending on the species, rice tops out at 3-12 feet above the water with light green flowers followed by red or yellow grains in bundles.

Below: Life stages of Mayom, wild rice.
Graphic created by Wisconsin Sea Grant and Chroma Press



About the Project

Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin's largest inland lake, connects major rivers to Lake Michigan.

Historically this watershed supports diverse wetlands, wildlife and fisheries. The waterways and connecting lakes have been altered by dams and other development. Wild rice persists and continues to offer habitat for fish, wildlife and waterfowl. The InterTribal Lake Winnebago Connectivity Project convenes Tribes, InterTribal, state and federal agencies, non-profits, fishing clubs, and universities in partnership for sustaining fisheries, traditions, and healthy food and water for watershed communities.

In winter and spring of 2022, Brothertown and Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies undergraduates worked together on projects for research, community education, and policy. The goal of the projects is to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge & western science through community engagement.

Contact Information

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Waterfowl Love Wild Rice!



Learn more about the importance of Wild Rice to waterfowl populations and how you can help!

Why is Wild Rice Important?



Wild Rice sustains life for waterfowl, mammals, fish, and people.

Wild Rice is a cultural resource and important food for Tribes in Wisconsin and throughout the western Great Lakes.

Indigenous language names for Wild Rice:

Mayom (Mohegan)

Wąąkšik sji (Ho-Chunk)

Manoomin (Ojibwe)

Mnomen (Potawatomi)

Oneewee, thank you, to Tribal language divisions in WI for contributing their languages to our project.

Waterfowl Habitat

- Waterfowl such as mallards use wild rice beds for **rearing ducklings**.
- **Migrating waterfowl** such as the blue-winged teal and wood duck stop over in wild rice beds for food and rest during migration.
- Wild Rice is an important **grain source** for other wetland birds like sora rails and Wilson's snipe. ⁴



Above: Blue-winged teal stopping over during migration in Wisconsin wetland.



Above: Sora foraging in the wetlands in Wisconsin. Fun fact: Sora are a companion species to wild rice!

Hunting Helps Wild Rice

Waterfowl hunters play a key role in the success of Wild Rice ecosystems by:

Hunting Canada Geese to lower populations and control herbivory in Wild Rice beds. ¹



Observing slow no wake signs while hunting to protect plants from wake damage.

Resources

- 1) Nichols, T. C. (2014). Integrated damage management reduces grazing of wild rice by resident Canada Geese in New Jersey. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 38(2), 229–236. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wsb.431>
- 2) Office for Coastal Management, N., & ABT Associates. (2021). *Lake Superior Manoomin Cultural and Ecosystem Characterization Study*.
- 3) Thompson, A. L., & Luthin, C. S. (2004). Wild Rice Community Restoration. In *Wetland Restoration Handbook for Wisconsin Landowners* (pp. 117–122).
- 4) <http://www.nativewildricecoalition.com/ecological-importance.html>