Wild Rice
Manoomin
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*
Aerial Leaf

- Mid-July
Flowering

• July - August
Mature Seed

• August - September
Harvesting
Timing is everything...
Harvesting
Harvesting

150 – 200 lbs/acre
Hulling

“Dancing the rice”
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 (≥65 free)
- Wooden knockers, ≤ 38”
- Boat length ≤ 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
Wild Rice
AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO COOKING, HISTORY, AND HARVESTING
Susan Carol Hauser

With 80 Recipes!