

## Management Guidelines Cont.

- L-206 is less resistant than medium grains to cold induced blanking. Water depth should be increased to 8 inches before panicle initiation (50 to 55 days after planting) until heading to protect panicles from exposure to low temperature during cool nights. L-206 has not performed as well as medium grain varieties in cooler San Joaquin and Yolo County sites and may not be suitable for these areas.
- Draining L-206 too early will reduce grain and milling yields. Grain ripening period is about 40 to 45 days after 50% heading. L-206 fields should be drained in reference to this ripening period to avoid soil moisture deficiency before the optimum harvest time. Maximum milling yield is obtained when grain moisture at harvest is 17% and the soil is still relatively moist. Harvest moistures as low as 15% may also yield maximum head rice in certain years. However, the risk of rapid decline in milling yield will increase if adverse weather condition such as heavy dew or rain occurs. Caution should be taken to prevent grain moisture from dropping too low before harvest, but harvest should not

begin until grain moisture falls below 19%. L-206 will dry down significantly faster than medium grains. It will also thrash easier than medium and short grains, so the harvester cylinder speed should be reduced to promote maximum head rice yield.

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# **L-206 RICE: DESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**



**2007**

## L-206

**Introduction.** L-206 is a conventional long-grain quality rice variety released for commercial production in California in 2006. Cooked grain texture of L-206 is harder than L-204 as indicated by its amylographic profile and therefore compares favorably with Southern US produced long-grains. Milling yield of L-206 is 1-2 percent lower than L-204. The primary advantages of L-206 over L-204 are improved cooking quality, higher grain yield, and earlier maturity.

**Description.** Agronomic characteristics of L-206 have been compared with L-205 and M-202 in the following table. L-206 is a photoperiod insensitive, very early to early maturing, semi-dwarf long-grain variety. Its seedling vigor is similar to L-205 and slightly lower than M-202. Days to 50% heading is an average of 4 days earlier than both L-205 and M-202. L-206 is 6 cm shorter than L-205 and 11 cm shorter than M-202. Lodging potential is not significantly higher than L-205, however, due to earlier maturity plants may lean due to excessive dryness after harvest maturity. Susceptibility to cold induced blanking (greenhouse blanking score), and susceptibility to stem rot and aggregate sheath spot pathogens of L-206 is not significantly different from L-205 and M-202. Seed size is slightly smaller than L-204, slightly larger than L-205, and slightly larger than most Southern US varieties.

**Performance.** Grain yield of L-206 averaged over 6 years (2000-2005) was 10170 lb/acre at RES, similar to L-205 and significantly higher than M-202. The average yield of L-206 at

Sutter-east, the cooler test location, was 8930 lb/acre which was not significantly different from L-205 or M-202. Yields of L-206 at the colder locations of Yolo and San Joaquin and the warmest location at Glenn were not competitive with M-202 (data not shown). Grain yields of L-206 tested in additional locations of Colusa, Yuba, Butte, and Sutter-west sites during 2005 and 2006 were not significantly different from L-205 or M-202. Milling yield average of L-206 from the 2001-2005 tests at RES was 62 percent compared to 63 percent for L-205.

Agronomic characteristics of L-206, L-205 and M-202 averaged over Sutter-East and RES locations (Yields are averaged per location) during 2000 to 2005.

Character	L-206	L-205	M-202
Seedling Vigor Score <sup>1</sup>	4.5	4.6	4.8*
Days to 50% Heading	82	86*	86*
Plant Height (cm)	86	92*	97*
Lodging (%)	24	11	41*
Yield (lb/acre@14%), RES	10170	10050	8900*
Yield (lb/acre@14%), Sutter-East	8930	8850	9000
Harvest Moisture (%)	14	16	19*
Head Rice Yield (%)	62	63	--
Greenhouse Blanking (%)	8	5	15
Stem Rot Score <sup>2</sup>	5.5	5.6	5.2
Aggregate Sheath spot Score <sup>3</sup>	2.4	2.6	2.2

<sup>1</sup> Seedling Vigor visual score where 1= poor and 5=excellent.

<sup>2</sup> Stem rot score where 0=no damage and 10=plant killed.

<sup>3</sup> number of top leaves killed by aggregate sheath spot.

\* Significantly different from L-206 (0.05 probability level)

**Area of Adaptation.** L-206 should be adapted to all but the coolest rice growing areas of Yolo and San Joaquin counties and the warmest areas of Glenn County. Greenhouse tests indicate that L-206 is slightly more resistance to cold induced blanking than L-204. In the warmest areas of California's rice production region, very early varieties such as L-206 may not reach their maximum yield potential because of excessive earliness and inability to take advantage of a longer growing season.

**Management Guidelines.** The following

guidelines are based on research, observation, and experience gained in developing L-206. These suggested cultural practices are intended to assist in the production of optimum yield and quality from L-206.

- Uniform water depth, fertility, seed distribution, and weed control are important because they affect uniformity of heading, harvest moisture, and in turn grain and head rice milling yields.
- Fertilizer rates and management should be similar to those used for medium-grain varieties. Due to a shorter plant height, L-206 may tolerate slightly higher rates of nitrogen than taller varieties. However, excessive nitrogen use should be avoided since it is more likely to delay maturity in cooler areas, increase disease, and reduce grain quality.
- Preferred seeding dates are May 1 to 15. Later seeding dates increase the risk of cool temperature induced blanking. L-206 should be seeded at the rate of 130 to 150 lbs/acre. Early season water depth should be maintained uniformly at about 2 to 4 inches to promote optimum tillering and stand establishment.