



Instructions for Collecting Wild Rice Field Data

- 1. Locate sample points using GPS unit.**
- 2. Collect water quality and sediment samples, if part of sampling plan.**
- 3. Lower the 0.5 m² quadrat straight down over the wild rice plants.**

When placing the quadrat, if there are any stalks leaning in or out, they should be pulled in or out accordingly. If the sample point doesn't contain wild rice, then measure water depth, document presence of other vegetation, write "0" in the other columns, and move on.
- 4. Record number of rice stalks within quadrat.**

Count stalks, not plants.
- 5. Identify other plants in the quadrat.**

Consider creating abbreviations for names of other vegetation to save space.
- 6. Select a sample plant that is nearest a designated corner of the quadrat.**
- 7. Measure plant height.**

Decide whether you will measure above water plant height or total plant height, and check the box to indicate your choice. (Note: At this point, you should also take into account whether you will eventually only collect seed heads or the entire plant, Step 9.) If measuring above water plant height, measure from the water line to the top of the tallest stem. If measuring total plant height, pull the plant and record measurement from the top of the roots (if 2+ sets, top of the prop root) to the top of the tallest stem (stems have seeds). Circle the unit of measurement.
- 8. Measure water depth.**

For this measurement, you can either use a Secchi disk or other tool OR, if you pulled the plant, you can measure from the top of the sediment roots or prop roots (if they exist) to the water line. Circle the unit of measurement.
- 9. Collect a sample to take back to the lab for analysis.**

See Step 9 on page 16 of the *Wild Rice Monitoring Field Guide* for instructions on collecting wild rice plants. Decide whether you will collect seed heads only or the entire sample plant. If only collecting seed heads, collect seed heads from every stem on the sample plant. If collecting the entire plant, count and note the number of stalks on the sample plant. Store seed heads or plants on ice until returning to the lab. Be sure to label the bag properly.
- 10. Record Field Notes.**
- 11. Record brown spot fungal disease severity (randomly at 3-5 points across the waterbody).**
- 12. Estimate wild rice stand area.**

Note: Upon returning to the lab, process samples as soon as possible.

(Source: Kjerland, T. 2015. *Wild Rice Monitoring Field Guide*. The University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program, Publication #SH15. ISBN 978-0-9965959-0-2.)