

## Plant Description of “Diamond” rice cultivar

Diamond rice is a very high yielding, very short-season, long-grain rice developed at the Division of Agriculture's Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Diamond is close in maturity to LaKast and about 4 to 5 days earlier than the Roy J varietal. Diamond has straw strength of 3 (equal to Wells) compared to a 4 for LaKast and 1 for Roy J. Diamond is 104 cm in plant height which is similar to Roy J and Wells. Rough rice grain yields of Diamond have consistently ranked as one of the highest in the Arkansas Rice Performance Trials

Diamond is rated S to sheath blight, blast, stem rot and kernel smut, which compares to Francis, Roy J, and Wells. Diamond is rated MS to bacterial panicle blight and lodging and VS to false smut using the standard disease R = resistant, MR = moderately resistant, MS = moderately susceptible, S = susceptible and VS = very susceptible to disease. Plants of Diamond have erect culms, green erect leaves, and glabrous lemma, palea, and leaf blades. The lemma and palea are straw colored with purple apiculi, many of which fade to straw at maturity.

The endosperm of Diamond is non-glutinous, non-aromatic, and covered by a light brown pericarp. Milled kernels of Diamond are long at 7.15 mm compared to Lakast, Roy J, Wells, Taggart and Mermentau at 7.47, 7.24, 7.16, 7.40 and 7.06 mm, respectively. Rice quality parameters indicate that Diamond has typical southern U.S. long-grain rice cooking quality. Diamond has an average apparent starch amylose content of 22.8 g kg<sup>-1</sup> and an intermediate gelatinization temperature (70 - 75 degrees C), as indicated by an average alkali spreading reaction of 3 to 5.