



### Did you know?

#### California Rice is unique, connected to the economy, wildlife, environment and ecosystem

- California specializes in sushi rice, meaning if you had sushi at virtually any restaurant in America, the rice was likely grown in California's Sacramento Valley.
- Like wine varieties thrive in different regions, the Sacramento Valley is perfectly suited for growing medium and short-grain japonica varieties with the sticky, moist characteristics ideal for sushi, other Asian cuisines, and Mediterranean dishes such as paella.
- Much like the Napa Valley being the premium wine grape growing region, the Sacramento Valley is the heart of the rice industry. 95% of the state's rice crop is grown within 100 miles of the California State Capitol.
- There are 2,500 family rice farmers and mill operators plus 25,000 rice-related jobs in the region. From work done on the farm, mills operating year-round, to trucking companies, the rice workforce helps get the grain from the field to your table.
- Brown rice and white rice are actually one in the same. At the mill, the outer hull is removed, leaving brown rice. White rice is the result of gently removing the bran layers to leave just the inner, pearly grain.
- California's rice industry contributes \$5 billion to our state's economy annually and \$1 billion in wages directly back into the Sacramento Valley region.
- Rice fields are home to 230 different species, including millions of migratory birds, fish and threatened species such as the Greater Sandhill Crane, Tricolored Blackbird, Giant Garter Snake, Western Pond Turtle and American Bald Eagle.
- In the fall and winter months, rice fields are used as critical habitat by millions of migratory waterfowl traveling the ancient "highway in the sky" known as the Pacific Flyway.
- The Sacramento Valley is home to one of the greatest concentration of waterfowl and is designated as a site of international importance for sustaining bird populations.
- Rice fields provide more than 60% of the fall and winter diet for the millions of ducks and geese that visit the valley annually.
- Rice fields provide valuable food resources for wildlife and support a unique ecosystem for various aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species all throughout the year.

- Rice fields provide unparalleled habitat for birds and fish that rely on planted rice fields for food, resting, nesting and raising their young in the Sacramento Valley year-round.
- Rice fields act as wetlands, with new studies by UC Davis scientists showing how reconnecting land and water in a flooded rice field can be instrumental in increasing ecological benefits to fish and migratory birds.
- The Fish Food and Ricelands Salmon projects demonstrate how planted rice fields help salmon and other fish by providing them nutrient-rich food in the winter.
- California's planted rice fields provide an estimated \$1 billion in habitat value.
- Conservation efforts play a critical part in helping to protect and preserve vulnerable species connected to rice fields.
- Rice fields are inherently beneficial for the environment, with 40% of the water added to rice fields getting recycled, flowing to other neighboring farms, traveling to wildlife refuges or continuing downstream.
- Rice is often underestimated in its water efficiency. It requires the same amount of water to cultivate a serving of rice as it does for oranges or broccoli. For perspective, the water used to create a single pair of jeans is equal to about 72 servings of rice.

Learn more about California Rice

Read- [Environmental Benefits of California Rice](#)

Watch- [Ricelands: Cultivating California's Environmental Crop](#)

CA Rice in the [News](#)

