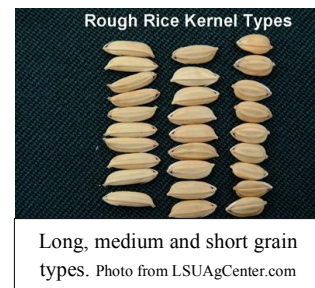


How California Rice Varieties Are Named

The Rice Experiment Station (RES) has released over 40 rice varieties since 1969. In 1979 a uniform naming system for new publically developed rice varieties was adopted based on grain type, maturity group and order of release. Names begin with a letter (or a word in case of specialty varieties) followed by a three digit number.

- A prefix letter/word
 - The **S**, **M** or **L** at the beginning of the varietal name designates the grain type: Short, **M**edium or **L**ong (see photo to the left). This designation is actually the grain length to width ratio (USDA Grain Inspection Handbook)
 - Specialty rice will carry a descriptive word prefix such as Calmochi (waxy sweet rice) or Calmati (basmati-like rice).
 - The **first digit** indicates the maturity group of that variety.
 - 1 = Very early
 - 2 = Early
 - 4 = Late



The maturity is based on time to 50% heading (the day when approximately half the panicles in a field have emerged from the boot) which varies according to temperature, planting date, location and year. In general, for the RES at Biggs:

Very early = ≤80days to 50% heading

Early = >80 to 90 days to 50% heading

Late = >100 days to 50% heading

- The **last two digits** indicate the order of release for that grain type and maturity group. For example, M206 was the 6th early maturing medium grain released.

Days to 50% heading for major California rice varieties

Year/study	M104	S102	M105	L206	M206	M208	M202	M209	M205	M402	M401
Mean	79	80	80	83	84	86	88	89	90	103	107
Very early											
2010	79	81		87	88		90				
2011	83	84	84	88	87		88				
2012	78	78	80	81	84		89	86	88		
2013	78	79	80	81	82	84	89	91	92	112	
2014	75	75	75	77	79	82	84	84	86	101	
Early											
2010		79		85	84	90	91	90	92		
2011		84	86	88	88	89	90	93	93		
2012		80	79	84	84	85	87	87	88		
2013		80	79	81	82	84	85	87	88	109	
2014		75	75	78	80	83	88	87	89	107	
Int/late											
2010				92			95		97	110	
2011				88			89		93	103	106
2012				81			85		87	93	101
2013			76	80	81		85		88	109	115
2014			76	78	79	84	85	86	87	101	106

Days to 50% heading are the average from three statewide rice variety trials conducted at the Rice Experiment Station between 2010 and 2014.

The mean days to heading are the average of the numbers in bold.