



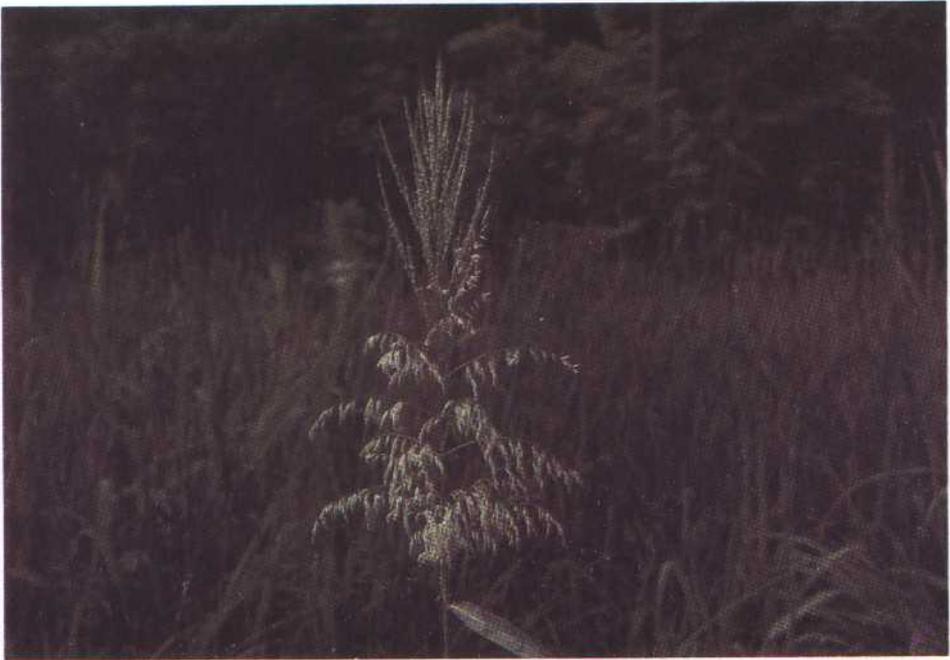
WILD RICE

Zizania aquatica

Located in inland and tidal fresh water marshes throughout the Division where deep, soft mud and slowly circulating water are present. Also known as Indian Rice, Water-Oats and Canada Rice.

An annual, shallow-rooted grass. The soft stems are erect, unbranched and smooth; to 3 m high. The leaves are flat, very rough edged, 0.3 to 5 cm wide, up to 1 m long; continuing into a loose sheath surrounding the stem. The stem terminates in a large distinctive flowering head (up to 70 cm long). The branches of the flowering head are divided into two forms; the lower spreading branches support the male spikelets; the upper erect branches support the female spikelets (where the rice grains form); flowering June to September.

The seeds are a favorite food of many ducks, rails, blackbirds and the bobolink. It is also of food value to muskrats, deer and moose; it provides cover and food for some fish species.



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Notes