

Breeder's Description

Mermentau (LA2048)

LA2048 is a semidwarf, early-maturing long-grain experimental rice line with good grain and milling yields and excellent grain quality. It was developed by using the pedigree selection method at the LSU AgCenter's Rice Research Station (RRS) in Crowley, Louisiana. LA2048 was selected from the cross AR1188/COCODRIE//9502088/LAGRUE that was made at the RRS in 2001. AR1188 is a long grain experimental line development in Arkansas while Cocodrie is a very early long grain semidwarf variety developed at the RRS. 9502088 is an experimental long grain breeding line developed at the RRS while Lagrue is a conventional height long grain variety developed in Arkansas. LA2048 originated as a bulk of a single progeny row #0523772 in 2005. It was evaluated in the preliminary yield nursery in Crowley, LA in the summer of 2006 with the experimental designation 06PY732 before being entered into the Cooperative Uniform Regional Rice Nurseries (URRN) in 2007 with the designation RU072085.

LA2048 averaged 35 inches in height in yield tests across Louisiana which is the same height as Cheniere and one inch taller than Cocodrie. At 85 days from emergence to 50% heading, LA2048 is the same as Cocodrie and one day earlier than Cheniere for this characteristic.

The leaves, lemma, and palea of LA2048 are glabrous. The spikelet is straw-colored. The apiculus color is purple at heading and fades slightly as the grain approaches maturity. The grain is non-aromatic.

LA2048 has typical long grain cooking quality with high amylose content and intermediate gelatinization temperature. The average amylose content of LA2048 is 22.6%, compared with 26.5% and 25.6% for Cocodrie and Cheniere, respectively. The average alkali spread value of LA2048, Cocodrie and Cheniere, are 4.0, 3.8, and 4.0, respectively.

LA2048 is susceptible to rice sheath blight and bacterial panicle blight, and moderately susceptible to straighthead disorder and blast.

Variants observed and removed from increase fields of LA2048 included any combination of the following: pubescent, taller, shorter, later, earlier, short-, medium-, and intermediate-grain types, gold and black hull, and sterile panicle. The total number of variants were less than 1 per 5000 plants.