

WHEREAS; wild rice, or manoomin, is a culturally significant crop and important food source to the Native Nations of Wisconsin, serving as a central feature in Tribal agricultural practices, as well as community and faith-based traditions; and

WHEREAS; however, habitat requirements for wild rice are fairly specific, and changing ecological conditions are putting Tribes’ ability to grow, cultivate, and harvest the crop on ceded Tribal lands and waters at risk; and

WHEREAS; centuries ago, manoomin was abundant across the Great Lakes Region and parts of North America, but research suggests that wild rice available for Tribal harvest off reservation has continued to see a steady decline in the Great Lakes Region, a trend that is projected to continue due to anthropogenic climate change, specifically increased early-summer precipitation and warmer winters; and

WHEREAS; the *LCO v. Voigt* Decision, made by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in 1983, upheld the rights of the Ojibwe Nations of Wisconsin to hunt, fish, and gather in the ceded territory, and preserving Native Nations’ long-established practice of wild rice stewardship in these fixed territories is critical to honoring this agreement; and

WHEREAS; fostering strong government-to-government relationships by bolstering the education and awareness of Tribal Treaty Rights and sovereignty and promoting stewardship to protect cultural wild rice resources across all levels of government is critical to protecting the traditions and food security of Indigenous people and the Native Nations that call Wisconsin home; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes Native Nations’ commitment to promoting food sovereignty, rooted in a deep respect for land and water resources, and remains committed to working with Native Nations to develop solutions that will lead to the preservation of cultural resources, along with improved ecosystem function and means of sustainable food production; and

WHEREAS; in support of this goal, last year, the state took action via Executive Order #277 to create the state’s first Wild Rice Stewardship Council to help promote the protection of wild rice in Wisconsin and ensure its presence for future generations and designate the first week of September as “Wild Rice Week” in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins Tribal Nations in honoring the importance of wild rice and pledges to respect Tribal sovereignty and the rights of Native Nations as well as recommit itself to meaningful, thoughtful partnerships to care for the environments and natural resources of Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 30 through September 6 2026 as

WILD RICE WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 28th day of August 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State