

Rice WDR Nitrogen Management Plan Template

The web-based template includes on-screen instructions. You can also choose to review or print these instructions to follow while completing the Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP). We suggest you read through the instructions once and then go to the specific details for each step of the NMP.

Background Information

The Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) is a condition of the Rice Waste Discharge Requirements (Rice WDR) Order issued by the Central Valley Water Board. This web-based template is to be completed once every 5 years, due by 1 March of the year. Rice Growers in the Sacramento Valley must complete the NMP, and provide a copy to the Central Valley Water Board staff *should they conduct an inspection of the rice farming operation*. A copy of the NMP shall be maintained at the rice farming headquarters or primary place of business, or be available electronically.

The CRC will maintain a database of the NMP data submitted in the web-templates. **No information from the NMP will be shared with the Central Valley Water Board.**

To access this web-based template, you need the last seven digits of your county pesticide permit number, the same number you used for the Farm Evaluation. You must complete the Farm Evaluation prior to beginning the NMP.

The NMP is organized into 2 portions:

1. The Previous Year NMP tied to the Farm Evaluation for reporting purposes from the past year,
2. The Current Year NMP, which serves as a nitrogen application planning tool for growers.

Similar to the Farm Evaluation Template, each of these sections are further split into sub-sections accessible from the top banner you will see on the screen of your computer. The two portions of the NMP need to be filled out in sequence (first the Previous Year, then the Current Year).

Rice is in low vulnerability areas for nitrogen impact to groundwater, which is the reason for the minimal requirement of the NMP for Central Valley Water Board inspection purposes. The annual NMP information is **not** submitted to the Central Valley Water Board; the tool is provided for planning purposes only, however it is important the information submitted be as correct as possible to your knowledge.

The completed hard copy of the NMP should be saved for your files. The web-based template can be accessed from: <http://www.calricenews.org/waste-discharge-requirements/>.

Overall Instructions

Please provide the requested NMP information in the web-based template for compliance with the Rice WDR. You only need to complete the NMP on the CRC web-template once every 5 years, by 1 March. You can access the web-based template at: <http://www.calricenews.org/waste-discharge-requirements/>. **To avoid entering in information twice and maximize efficiency, the web-templates must be completed in this order: Farm Evaluation, Previous Year NMP, Current Year NMP.**

Steps for completing the NMP:

1. Complete the Previous Year NMP to report nitrogen used on your fields for 2023 (same fields as in the Farm Evaluation).
2. The information entered for the Previous Year is included in the Current Year planning tool to help you estimate how much nitrogen to use for 2024 based on information provided for the 2023 growing season.
3. Complete the Current Year NMP for planning nitrogen applications on the fields you will plant for the 2024 growing season. You will be able to add and delete fields for 2024 planting.

To enter the Current Year NMP in the web-based template, the Previous Year must be saved. The Current Year NMP is accessible from the dashboard.

When each portion of the NMP is fully completed, there will be an option available to download and save a PDF version electronically, and/or print a paper copy for your records. When you complete the NMP template, you should have two PDF format files either saved and/or printed for your records – one for the Previous Year reporting information, and one for the Current Year planning information.

Detailed Instructions

From the dashboard, you can access the two portions of the NMP: Previous Year and Current Year. The dashboard can be accessed at any time by clicking on the home icon in the upper left-hand corner of the page. Below are the detailed instructions to fill out each portion. On the web-based template, in each portion, the individual sub-section page also includes detailed instructions that pertain to the specific information requested.

Previous Year Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Portion

This portion contains 3 sections:

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: NMP Previous Year

Section 3: Summary

Section 1: Introduction

Provide the requested information in the web-based template for compliance with the Rice WDR Order, based on the previous year's growing season information. For example, you will use your farming information from the 2023 crop year for the Nitrogen Management Plan due by 1 March 2024. You only need to provide the Nitrogen Management Plan for the previous and current years to the CRC once every 5 years, by 1 March. You must complete all parts of the Nitrogen Management Plan for both the previous year and current year.

Section 2: NMP Previous Year

This page shows Field ID, County and MTRS for each of your fields on the left side of the web-template. This list is identical to the list shown in your Farm Evaluation Template. For each field, fill out the following nitrogen management questions for the previous growing season.

Enter the rice variety and add all nitrogen applied to the field for the previous year, from various sources. It is important the information submitted be as correct as possible to your knowledge.

Note: Field ID changes from red to black once clicked on.

Note: You do not report nitrogen use for any crop other than rice.

Rice variety: Click on the arrow for a dropdown list and choose the rice type or variety grown on this field. If the variety is not listed, scroll to the end of the list and select "Other (Type rice variety)" and then enter the variety in the blank box.

Pre-plant N rate: Click on the box to enter the pre-plant nitrogen rate in pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Starter N rate: Click on the box to enter the starter nitrogen fertilizer rate in pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Previous season cover crop/green manure N: Click on the box to enter the pounds of nitrogen applied per acre via a cover crop or green manure.

Top Dress N: Click on the box to enter the pounds of nitrogen applied per acre via top dressing.

Yield: Click on the box to enter the yield in hundredweight per acre.

Other factors affecting yield: Enter any other factors that affected yield.

Examples of factors affecting yield may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Excessive pest or weed pressure
- Cold water in upper check(s)
- Herbicide damage
- Salinity in recycled drainage
- Fertilization skip
- Delayed planting
- Excessive blanking or lodging

At the lower right corner of the screen, Click "**Save**" and then Click "**Next Step**" to advance to the following screen. **Note:** You may need to scroll down the page to see the two buttons.

Note: If editing one field at a time, click "**Save**" after editing each field. If editing all fields, click "**Select All**", edit the visible field, and then click "**Save All Selected Fields**". Clicking "**Save All Selected Fields**" will save information shown on the current page to all selected fields.

Section 3: Summary

The last page of the web-based template provides the status of the data completion in each sub-section. By clicking the sections, you can go back to that sub-section, review the data entered, and add missing information. This is the page from which you save your completed Previous Year NMP. On the dashboard, you can download and print your Final Report.

Review Status:

Note: You must complete each section before you can submit. All boxes must be green to submit. If a box reads "Next Step", click on it to return to that screen and complete the missing information.

Output:

From this page, you can save your plan. Clicking on "**Save Final**" will save and direct you to the dashboard. This information will not be shared, reported, or presented.

Note: Final date for saving information is 1 March.

Save Final

Note: Save the Previous Year NMP data and return to the dashboard to access "**Download Final Report**". Once saved, the NMP data can be edited again and must be re-saved before it is considered final.

Download Final Report

Note: On the dashboard, you will download and print your Final Report. Click on “**Generate Final Report**” to generate the report. Once generated, the button will read “**Download Final Report**”. Click on “**Download Final Report**” to download and print. This is the final version of information that was saved to the NMP. When “**Save Final**” is selected on the Summary page of the NMP template, the revised information can be printed again.

Return to Dashboard

Note: Close the web-template and return to the dashboard. All changes will be saved upon leaving this page. Final date for submission is on or before 1 March.

Current Year Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Portion

This portion contains 5 sections:

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Planning Information

Section 3: Results

Section 4: Management Practices

Section 5: Summary

Section 1: Introduction

Provide the requested information in the web-based template for compliance with the Rice WDR Order, based on the nitrogen application plans for the current year’s growing season. For example, you will use your planned farming information for the 2024 crop year for the NMP (Current Year). You only need to provide the NMP for the previous and current years to the CRC once every 5 years by 1 March. You must complete all sections of the NMP for both the previous year and current year.

Section 2: Planning Information

This page shows Field ID, County and MTRS for each of your fields on the left side of the web-template. For each field, fill out the requested information. Fill out the following nitrogen management questions for the upcoming growing season. The grey background signifies a calculated value for your information (“Suggested % of maximum regional M-206 yield”). If one of your fields is to be taken out of rice production for the upcoming year, select the field, then select “**Delete**” to remove that field from the data entry. If you plan to add a field this season to your permit number, select “**Add**” to add that field to the data entry.

Note: Field ID changes from red to black once clicked on. Use “**Add**” button to add any fields that are not listed. When a field is added, Field IDs are to be generated and cannot be changed. There will be no suggested % of maximum regional M-206 yield or suggested nitrogen range for new fields. Use “**Delete**” button to remove any fields that either will not be planted in rice or will be fallowed. Changes to the field list apply to the remainder of the tabs.

Questions on the page:

Planned rice variety: Click on the arrow for a dropdown list and choose the planned rice variety for the upcoming season. If the variety is not listed, scroll to the end of the list and select “**Other (Type rice variety)**” and then enter the rice variety in the blank box.

Anticipated planting date: Click the calendar icon to the right of the box to select the anticipated planting date for this field.

Suggested % of maximum regional M-206 yield: This is an adjustment for the selected rice variety and planting date as a percentage of the maximum region M-206 variety yield, planted before May 15th, in a warm temperate microclimate.

Anticipated yield: Enter the anticipated yield for this growing season. Estimate yield modestly, but not too conservatively.

Previous winter straw management: Click on the arrow for a dropdown list and choose the straw management method used last winter.

Planned seeding method: Click on the arrow for a dropdown list and choose the planned seeding method for the upcoming season. If the method is not listed, scroll to the end of the list and select “Other (Type seed method)” and then write the seed method in the blank box that will appear.

Current Winter Cover Crop N: Click on the cell to enter the estimated pounds of nitrogen applied per acre by the current year’s winter cover crop.

At the lower right corner of the screen, Click “**Save**” and then Click “**Next Step**” to advance to the following screen. **Note:** You may need to scroll down the page to see the two buttons.

Section 3: Results

The grey background signifies values from the database for the selected field (“Suggested N Range”, “Previous total applied N”, etc.). The provided “Suggested N Range” at the top of the page is to be used as an estimate. It is calculated based on data entered on the Planning Information Tab. After reviewing the provided information, enter your planned nitrogen application rate for the current year.

Questions/Information on the page:

Current season suggested N range: This web-based template is specific to irrigated rice production in the Sacramento Valley. As such, it considers factors important in determining appropriate nitrogen (N) rates in this environment (such as straw and water management, crop yield, and planting date), but does not address consumption ratios, or N concentrations in irrigation water or soil, which are not relevant in determining these N rates.

2023 season total applied N rate: This value is populated from a total of the entries for nitrogen applied to the field in the past 2023 growing season. Total of rates for pre-plant fertilizer, starter nitrogen, cover crop/green manure, and top dress (all in pounds of nitrogen per acre). This value is for your reference.

2018 season suggested N range: 2018 season (last submitted NMP) suggested N range is the suggested N rate range from the last year when you completed the Current NMP form (2018). This value is for your reference.

2018 season planned N rate: Note: 2018 season (last submitted NMP) planned N range is the rate that you entered for this field, from the last year when you completed the Current NMP form (2018). This value is for your reference.

Current season planned N rate: Enter planned nitrogen application rate for current growing season in pounds per acre.

Note: Field ID changes from red to black once clicked on.

At the lower right corner of the screen, Click “**Save**” and then Click “**Next Step**” to advance to the following screen. **Note:** You may need to scroll down the page to see the two buttons.

Section 4: Management Practices

Fill out the following nitrogen management questions for the upcoming growing season.

Questions/Information on the page:

Do you plan to use plant tissue testing or rice leaf color chart on this field?

Note: Click the dropdown arrow to indicate whether the plant tissue method or rice leaf color chart will be used.

Will this field be flooded for purposes other than pesticide application & pre-harvest?

Note: Click the dropdown arrow to indicate whether or not you plan to flood this field for anything else besides pesticide application and pre-harvest.

Will you avoid unnecessary or unnecessarily prolonged field drainage on this field, especially during the 6 weeks after planting?

Note: Click the dropdown arrow to indicate whether or not you will avoid unnecessary field drainage on this field.

Do cold-water affected areas receive a reduced rate of N?

Note: Click the dropdown arrow to indicate whether or not areas that are affected by cold water receive a lower application rate of nitrogen.

Planning Assistant(s):

Note: Click inside the cell to pull up a dropdown menu to indicate the planning assistants that will be used this growing season. Select all that apply. If planning assistant used is not on the dropdown menu, Select “**Other**” and write the planning assistant (s) title and/or organization in the cell below.

At the lower right corner of the screen, Click “**Save**” and then Click “**Next Step**” to advance to the following screen. **Note:** You may need to scroll down the page to see the two buttons.

Section 5: Summary

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Return to Dashboard

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