row block of Labelle grown at Beaumont in 1969 was used to plant a 4 ha field for breeder seed production in 1970. Foundation seed was produced on 122 ha in 1971 and was distributed to growers in the spring of 1972 (Bollich et al. 1972).

The spikelet of Labelle is straw colored, glabrous, and awnless. It has faint anthocyanin pigmentation in the apiculus. The grain is a typical U.S. long-grain rice, slightly smaller than that of Belle Patna and 'Bluebelle' and about the same size as that of 'Starbonnet'. Labelle is similar to Belle Patna in plant type, but it has 5 to 8 cm shorter straw and slightly narrower leaves. Labelle is about the same in maturity as Belle Patna and averages 80 days from seeding to heading.

Labelle is the product of an accelerated testing and breeding program for very short season rice cultivars with resistance to the blast disease caused by Pyricularia oryzae Cav. Information regarding reaction to other diseases is presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Labelle has about the same first-crop yield as Belle Patna, but the second-crop yield potential is higher. It is more resistant to lodging than Belle Patna, but less so than Bluebelle. Labelle produces high milling yields and has the light hull color preferred by industrial processors of parboiled long-grain rice. Labelle possesses the superior cooking and processing behavior that characterizes U.S. long-grain varieties. Like other preferred U.S. long-grain types, it has a relatively high amylose content (24 to 25%) and an intermediate gelatinization temperature range (70 to 75 °C).

Labelle was grown on about 2,300 ha in Texas in 1972. Reports from growers indicate that first-crop yields of Labelle tended to be higher than those of Belle Patna and Bluebelle, and second-crop yields were generally superior.

The initial foundation seed of Labelle contained a trace of C1. 9836. was developed jointly by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. It was derived from the cross 'Northrose' × P.I. 215936 made at the University of Arkansas Rice Branch Experiment Station in 1959. Northrose has been registered (Johnston and Henry, 1965). P.I. 215936 ('Tainan-iku 487') is a high yielding, pubescent, short-grain introduction from Taiwan (Johnston et al., 1972).

Nortai spikelets are characteristically awnless and glabrous. There may be a few hairs on the lemma keel. The apiculus, sometimes the apex of the grains, and the outer glumes carry the purple coloring of the P.I. 215936 parent. The purple pigmentation on the panicles usually is rather pronounced at heading, but the intensity diminishes at maturity. The lemma and palea usually are light yellowish-gold in color when the grains mature. The purple coloration of Nortai distinguishes it from all other commercial rice cultivars presently grown in the United States. It was released for commercial production in March 1972 as an improvement for 'Caloro', in Arkansas (Johnston et al., 1972).

Nortai was tested under the designations P.I. 661152. It has 25% shorter straw than Caloro, considerably more resistant to lodging. It averages plant height as the widely grown, long-grain type 'Belle Patna' resembles Caloro in that the plants have thin, narrow, dark-green leaves. Nortai heads about 6 days earlier than 'Nova 66' and about 6 days earlier than Caloro for seeding dates. Unlike Caloro, Nortai is not photoperiod sensitive.

Nortai equaled Caloro in grain yield and in kg/ha of milled head rice (white kernels) in 22 replicated experiments in Arkansas during 4 years, 1969-1972. The yields of Nortai were nearly as high as, and succeeded, those of the high yielding, medium-grain rice, Nova 66. Percent milling yields of Nortai were also among the excellent milling 'Nato'.

Nortai has shown greater field resistance to the blast straighthead diseases than Caloro and has less resistance to kernel smut in the same Arkansas tests. Nortai has surpassed both Nato and Nova 66 in field and kernel smut in Arkansas. Other disease data are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Nortai produced an average rough rice yield of 7050 kg/ha in 18 Arkansas variety trials, with a high average of 7710 kg/ha in one experiment. High grain yields also were obtained in seeding rate and nitrogen fertilizer experiments at the cooperative Regional Rice Quality Laboratory at Beaumont, Texas (Webb et al., 1972). Additional test representatives indicate that Nortai can be used across the pose as Caloro.

The original release of foundation seed consisted of taller, non-purple, and otherwise different offtype seed panicle rows, hand picking of seed, and seed increase fields are being used to purify the cultivar. Seed is produced in Arkansas under restricted certification, with the cooperative Regional Rice Quality Laboratory, Beaumont, Texas (Webb et al., 1972). Additional test representatives indicate that Nortai can be used across the pose as Caloro.

The pollen parent may have been a strawhull selection from (Oryza sativa L.), C.I. 9836. was developed jointly by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. It was derived from the cross 'Northrose' × P.I. 215936 made at the University of Arkansas Rice Branch Experiment Station in 1959. Northrose has been registered (Johnston and Henry, 1965). P.I. 215936 ('Tainan-iku 487') is a high yielding, pubescent, short-grain introduction from Taiwan (Johnston et al., 1972).

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