

## **BG 304 - A NEW 3 MONTH RICE VARIETY RESISTANT TO THE NEW BIOTYPE OF GALL MIDGE**

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At present, 3 month paddy varieties are cultivated in about 30% of the total annual paddy extent. Despite delays in rainfall and water shortage in rainfed areas the rice production is not affected very much due to the availability of high yielding short duration varieties. In irrigated areas, short age varieties help to save the scarce resource, water. Another important feature of the short duration varieties is their ability to produce comparable yields as medium age varieties under good crop management.

Bg 276-5 and Bg 300 are the three month varieties recommended at present for the high potential areas. However, both these varieties are susceptible to the new biotype of gall midge and Bg 276-5 is susceptible to Brown plant hopper, too.

Bg 304, a 3 month variety, developed at Central Rice Breeding Station has a high yield potential with built in resistance to brown plant hopper,

gall midge (new biotype), green leaf hopper, blast and bacterial blight.

This variety released by Department of Agriculture for cultivation in September, 1993 has long medium grains with white pericarp. It has good grain appearance and cooking quality.

Bg 304 matures 7 - 10 days earlier than the other recommended 3 month varieties. It is reported that some farmers have harvested their crop in 85 days in broadcast fields. It has very good seedling vigour, an important character for short duration varieties as they are primarily direct seeded.

In large scale (500 -1000 sq. m) field adaptability trials, Bg 304 has outyielded Bg 300 by about 0.9 t/ha (Table 1).

Bg 304 is an outstanding variety, capable of giving very high yield within a short growth duration. This is the only recommended variety today

**Table 1 :** Yield performance of Bg 304 and Bg 300 in large scale field adaptability trials (Yala 1992)

District/ Location	Agro- ecological region	Soil type	TP/BC	Yield (t/ha)	
				Bg 304	Bg 300
<b>Ampara</b>					
Paragahakele	DL2	LHG or	B/C	4.60	3.20
Samanthurai	DL2	Alluvial soil	B/C	4.84	5.00
<b>Anuradhapura</b>					
Galenbindunuwewa	DL1	LHG or	B/C	7.40	6.00
Siyambalanyaya	DL1	Alluvial soil	T/P	6.70	6.00
<b>Gampaha</b>					
Rathgahamulla	WL3	Alluvial soil	B/C	4.00	3.00
<b>Kurunegala</b>					
Polgahawela	WL2	LHG soil	T/P	6.50	6.00
Gokerella	IL1	RYP or LHG	T/P	3.90	3.69
<b>Puttalam</b>					
Gal-Ivura	DL3	Alluvial soil	Dry sown	4.80	3.30
Pallama	IL1	Alluvial soil	T/P	7.20	6.00
<b>Mean</b>				<b>5.55</b>	<b>4.69</b>

LHG - Low humic gley

RYP - Red yellow podzolic

T/P - Transplant

B/C - Broadcast

with resistance to brown plant hopper, gall midge (new biotype), green leaf hopper, bacterial blight and blast.

This variety will gain farmer

acceptance due to its high yielding ability, earliness, good seedling vigour and multiple resistance to major insect pests and disease.