

# CANBY BLUEGRASS SANDBERG BLUEGRASS

*Poa secunda*



## ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to western U.S., Rocky Mountain, and northern Great Plains region. Short, cool season, Bunchgrass. Small and densely tufted, culms 8 to 16" tall, typically under 12" tall. Leaves short and mostly basal blades folded or involute and soft with boat-shaped tips. Panicles yellowish, short, narrow-contracted. Shallow or sometimes deep, finely branched, fibrous root system.

## GROWTH HABIT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to all soil textures, often a primary native in shallow, rocky, and droughty soils. Adapted to weakly acid, alkaline, and saline soils. Intolerant of prolonged flooding and high water tables but occurs on imperfectly drained sites saturated briefly in spring. Species are scattered from low altitude cold deserts and plains to alpine elevations. Local sources of

native seed, cold-tolerant and winter-hardy. Avoid using seed from habitats differing greatly. Moderately shade tolerant and fire tolerant when dormant. Seedlings weakly competitive but plants compatible and competitive when fully established, often self-seeding and filling in bare spaces and suppressing weedy cheat-grass invasion.

## CULTURE

Drill on well-prepared and firmed seedbeds at 1/2" to 1/4" depths. Plant 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per acre. Use 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per 1,000-sq. ft. for turf grass. Double seeding rate when broadcasting for harsh, dry, and erosive sites. Seed early spring at higher elevations. Late fall suggested for Pacific Northwest and Intermountain States. Seedling vigor may be weak, requires weed control and protect from grazing during establishment period.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used as low maintenance turf and forest roads in northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. Low volume forage and seed producer, makes growth in early spring, poor volume of summer regrowth and fair volume in fall. Good palatability while green, moderately used by elk and deer. Growth starts in early spring ahead of native cool season species and matures in early summer or later at high mountain elevations, becomes dormant in summer and renews growth with fall rains. Good grazing tolerance due to short growth form and early maturity; behaves as an increaser on most rangelands and may dominate overgrazed sagebrush-grass and deep soils of the northern prairie communities.

Canby bluegrass is similar to Sandberg bluegrass but is taller, more vigorous, longer leaved, later maturing, and more productive. Occurs intermixed with Sandberg bluegrass on more favorable sites. Canby is distinctly superior to Sandberg bluegrass in production.

## IMPROVED VARIETIES

- 'Canbar' released from Idaho and Oregon.
- 'Service' released from Alaska.
- 'High Plains' released from Montana.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

PawneeButtesSeed.com 1-800-782-5947