

# ROUGH FESCUE

*Festuca campestris*



## ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native, long-lived, cool season bunchgrass (rarely producing a slender rhizome), indigenous to the Northern Hemisphere. Wildly distributed across Canada and Northern U.S. One of principal grasses in Montana, northern Idaho and eastern Oregon and Washington. Dwarf culms densely tufted 1 to 3' tall. Leaves flat, narrow, rough and mostly basal. Panicle head 2 to 10" long, spikelets with short awns.

## GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to prairies, rolling hills and open woodlands 5,000 to 10,000' elevation with 12 to 18" ppt. Cold-and drought-tolerant. Not tolerant of flooding, high water tables, or inundation for any extended period. Adapted on dry, deep, sandy loam soils.

## CULTURE

Culture similar to Idaho fescue. Plant seed 1/4 – 3/4" deep on coarse textured soils and 1/2" or shallower on fine-textured soils. Better stands obtained on firm seedbed. Drill seed at 4.3 to 8.6 lbs. PLS per acre. Increase rate 50 – 100% for harsh sites, (south, west), or steep exposures, poorer seedbeds, and when broadcasting. Seedling vigor is fair. Mulch on steep slopes and highly erosive sites. Seed early spring at lower altitudes with reliable moisture. Seed in late fall with uncertain moisture and at lower mountain elevations, or in spring or very early summer, as early as possible, at higher mountain elevations. Control weeds with mowing or herbicides.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used on rangeland, mine lands and as a durable grass on sandy soils and for erosion control in northern states. Succeeds better than most grasses on sandy, gravelly soils. Produces large amount of forage.

## IMPROVED VARIETIES

None listed for Region.



Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

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