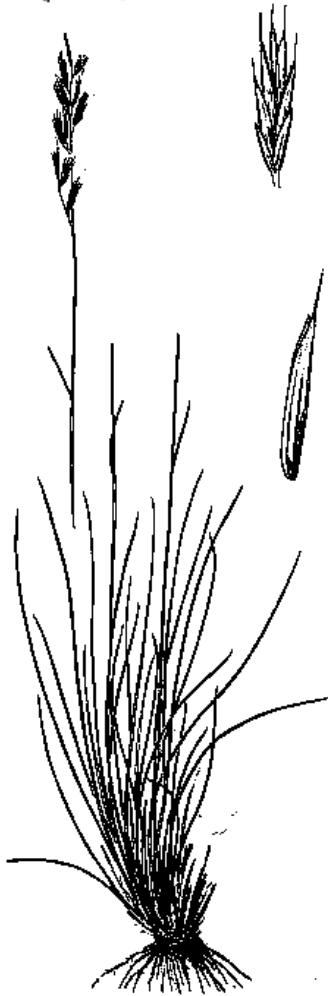


SHEEP FESCUE

Festuca ovine



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native, long-lived, cool-season species indigenous to the Northern Hemisphere. Dwarf small-tufted bunchgrass very similar to Idaho fescue. More common at higher subalpine and alpine elevations in the Rocky Mountains, as well as the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountains.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to open, exposed, high altitude sites in Rocky Mountain and northern Intermountain area with over 8 to 10" ppt. Thrives on fertile, silty and clayey soils. Tolerant of shallow,

gravely, and dry, weakly saline and acid soils. Cold and drought-tolerant. Grows in well-drained meadows, sub-humid grasslands, and semi-desert sagebrush sites. Not tolerant of flooding, high water tables, or inundation for any extended period.

CULTURE

Culture similar to Idaho fescue. Plant seed 1/4 – 1/2" deep or shallower on fine-textured soils. Better stands obtained on firm seedbed. Drill seed at 1.5 to 3 lbs. PLS per acre for dryland. Use increased seeding rates for turf grass. Increase rate 50 – 100% for harsh sites, (south, west), or steep exposures, poorer seedbeds, and when broadcasting. Seedling vigor only fair; stands do not develop until the second or third year. Mulch on steep slopes and highly erosive sites. Seed early spring at lower altitudes with reliable moisture, late fall with uncertain moisture and at lower mountain elevations. Also seed 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, mined lands and as a durable turf grass on sandy soils and for erosion control in northern states. Succeeds better than most grasses on sandy, gravely soils. Turfgrass recommended on infertile, acid, or droughty soils where supplemental irrigation and fertilizer are not applied. Graze early in the spring, but not widely used for forage. Stands of forage types are long-lived and productive once established on pinyon/juniper areas of western Colorado.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Cover' released from Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

'Bighorn' (turf) released by Turf-Seed Inc.

'MX-86' (turf) released by Jacklin Seed Co.

'SR-3000' (turf) released from Oregon.

'Azay'.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

PawneeButtesSeed.com 1-800-782-5947