

REDTOP BENTGRASS

Agrostis gigantea



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to Europe, introduced as a cultivated species. Naturalized in the more humid areas of the U.S., especially in northeastern and north central regions. Cool season, strong rhizomes, perennial sod grass with decumbent to semierect culms 1 to 4' tall. Leaves are harsh and seed head is purplish-red loose panicle.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives best on moist to semi-wet soils. No marked soil textures limitation when moisture is abundant, otherwise best on clay loam and loam soils. Tolerant of moderately acidic and nutri-

tionally poor soil. Not suited for planting on limey soils or on limestone sites. Mostly in mountain meadows and subalpine grasslands with openings in canopy cover. Adapted on poorly drained acid soils.

CULTURE

Seed no deeper than 1/2", preferably shallower on finer textured and moist soils. Cover broadcasted shallow or seed may be pressed into soil with a cultipacker. Rates for drill seeding 4 to 5 lbs. PLS per acre. Commonly used 8 to 10 lbs. per acre, adequate for broadcasting seeding with poor seedbeds and harsh sites. Seeding time usually early spring, late fall, early fall, or in June or July, later dates for higher mountain areas.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Species seeded for pastures, meadows, turf and occasionally for hay. Also used for waterways, and ditch bank cover. Seeded in burned or cut over timberlands and to retard weed invasion in wet lowlands. Use to revegetate acid mine spoils. Good palatability for livestock in spring and early summer. Fair palatability after headed but poor in winter. Good grazing resistance. Quick cover species on game range restoration and disturbed land.

Species starts growth early to mid spring, varying with latitude and altitude, matures in mid to late summer and makes fair volume of fall regrowth in wet sites. Tolerant of semi-shaded environments.

Redtop and alsike clover make a good mixture for wet meadows and subirrigated sites. Moderately competitive, but maybe slightly too aggressive for weaker turf species.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Streaker' released by Jacklin Seed Co. Idaho.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

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