

# ALPINE BLUEGRASS

*Poa alpina*



## ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to mountainous areas. Grows in the cooler and high elevation regions of the U.S. Short erect bunchgrass, culms 8 to 24" tall, arising from a tight crown and short leaf blades. Occurs in Colorado, Utah, Washington and Oregon. Flowering head is panicle 1 to 2" long.

## GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENT PREFERENCES

Cold tolerant, occurring in the alpine and sub-alpine zones. Common in mountain meadows, bogs and wet places. Naturally colonizes in open or disturbed sites in western mountains. Also grows on relatively well-drained soils and grassy slopes.

Associated with other moisture loving plants such as alpine timothy, meadow sedges and rushes, redtop and willows.

## CULTURE

Plant seed 1/4 – 1/2" deep on coarsely textured soils and 1/4" or shallower on fine-textured soils. Better stands obtained on firm seedbed. Drill about 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per acre for satisfactory stands. Increase rate 50 – 100% for harsh sites, steep open exposures, poorer seedbeds and when broadcasting. Plant seed as soon after disturbance as possible in mountain environment. Mulching is recommended. Protect new seeding from grazing.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used in seeding mixtures for erosion control, reclamation and restoration in alpine and sub-alpine region. Adapted for use on big game ranges and to protect roads, ski slopes, and mined lands. Will establish on gravelly alpine slopes.

## IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Gruening' released from Alaska.

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