

SPIKE MUHLY

Muhlenbergia wrightii



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to U.S. Occurs in southwestern Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico. Warm-season, tufted perennial bunchgrass with large bunches 2 to 2 1/2' diameter. Plants light green with gray to blackish seedheads, seldom over 1 to 1 1/2' tall. Spike heads 2 to 4" long. Short underground stems or reproductive rootstocks found on some plants.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to wide spectrum of sandy to clayey soils, but most characteristic of sandy or silty soils with 16 to 20" ppt. Tolerant of moist clay to gravelly or rocky sites. It is also found near springs as well as on dry rocky ridges. Grows

scattered in semidry meadows, parks, open woodlands and ponderosa pine at 3,800 to 9,000' elevation. Good winter hardiness. Some associated grasses are sideoats, blue grama and pine dropseed (*Blepharoneuron tricholepis*).

CULTURE

Plant seed 1/4" deep on fine-textured to 3/4" on coarse textured soils. Firm seedbed desired. Seed into non-volunteering crop, stubble or mulch on eroded sites. Plant 1 to 1.5 lbs. PLS per acre. More if broadcasting on bare or harsher sites or for dense, early stands. Seeding dates vary from early to mid spring, or early July with summer rains.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Good soil binder, which can be used for revegetation on rangelands, mine lands, construction activities, brush control, and after fires. Palatable to all classes of domestic livestock and utilized by deer and elk throughout the year.

Used in mixtures for conservation work on eroding fields, depleted ranges and bare, eroding and disturbed fields. New seedings require weed control with herbicides or mowing. Graze moderately, leave 3 to 6" of stubble to maintain stands. Depleted rangelands may need summer deferment. Should be allowed to mature a seed crop occasionally.

Good palatability in late spring and summer. Fair forage value when mature.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'El Vado' released from New Mexico and Colorado.



Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

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