

ANNUAL RYEGRASS

Lolium perenne ssp. *multiflorum*



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Major cool season, annual bunchgrass introduced from Europe. Culms erect or decumbent 1 to 2' tall. Foliage is glossy. Spike 3 to 6" long. Growth starts early to midspring, varying with latitude and altitude. Matures in mid to late summer.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Grows principally in the Northwest Pacific coast states, west of the Cascades and as a winter annual in southern U.S. Subject to winter kill in northern states. No marked soil texture limi-

tation when moisture is abundant, otherwise best on clay loam and loam soils. Tolerant of moderately acidic and nutritionally poor soil.

CULTURE

Seed no deeper than 1/2", preferably shallower on finer textured and moist soils. Cover broadcasted seeding very shallow. Seed may be pressed into soil with a cultipacker. Rates for drill seeding 4 to 8 lbs. PLS per acre. Commonly used rates of 8 to 10 lbs. PLS per acre used for broadcasting seedings with poorer seedbeds and harsh sites. Increase seeding rate to 7 - 9 lbs. per 1,000-sq.ft. for turf grass. Plant early spring or one month before desired germination and seedling growth.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for pastures, hay, silage, cover crop, erosion control, temporary lawn, and over seeding warm season turf grasses in the southern states. Used as winter annual forage in the south. Rapid seedling growth will retard weed invasion. Good palatability to livestock in spring and early summer.

Both forage and turf varieties are available. Seeded with other turf grasses, with or without legumes and provides quick cover with slower developing species.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

Fifteen strains or cultivars are listed in 1994 Grass Varieties of the United States, USDA SCS Handbook 170. Consult with state or local plant materials specialists for varieties best adapted to specific sites and purposes.

Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

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