

BOTTLEBRUSH SQUIRRELTAIL

Elymus elymoides



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to U.S. and widely distributed from eastern Washington to South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Texas and California. Bottlebrush squirreltail is a cool season, short lived, perennial bunchgrass, growing 1 to 2' tall with panicle head and long awns. Found in dry hills, plains, open woods and rocky slopes.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to wide spectrum of sand to clayey soils and often grows on gravelly soils. Tolerant to saline-alkali soils and has good drought resistance. Good winter hardiness with local adapted

strains and seed sources. Use caution in selecting locations of adaptation of seed sources. Bottlebrush grows in shadscale saltbush, juniper pinyon, big sagebrush, black brush, black greasewood, mountain brush and subalpine vegetation zones.

CULTURE

Plant seed 1/4" deep on fine-textured soils, to 3/4" on coarse textured soils with firm seedbed. Seed in non-volunteering crop stubble or mulch needed on eroded sites. Plant 4 to 9 lbs. PLS per acre. Use more seed if broadcasting on bare or harsher sites or for dense, early stands. Seeding dates vary from January to April in southern Great Plains and April 1 to May 15 in central Great Plains and June 15 to July 15 for Trans Pecos and Southwest area. New seedings require weed control; use herbicides or mowing.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used in mixtures or as a monoculture for conservation work on eroding fields, depleted ranges and bare soils in northern and central Great Plains and Southwest. Graze stands moderately and leave 3 to 6" of stubble to maintain stands. Palatable in spring and early summer. Fair forage value when graze in the late summer and fall at higher elevations after awned seed heads fall. In desert regions it is classed as good fall and winter feed.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Sand Hollow' released from Utah.

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