

HYBRID WHEATGRASS

Elymus hoffmanni



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Selected through plant breeding. Advanced-generation hybrid between quackgrass and blue-bunch wheatgrass. Cool season, long-lived, perennial sod-forming grass. Deep, finely branched, fibrous root system. Seedheads large flattened (crested like) spike 3 to 5" long. Stalks 3 to 4' tall with numerous green to dark green leaves.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to 13 to 18" ppt or irrigated soils. Starts growth early in spring. Matures in early to

mid-summer and may become semi-dormant until cooler or moister weather in fall. Thrives on moderately deep and semi-fertile loam soils in cool semi-arid areas. Good drought tolerance and winter hardiness. Good saline tolerance, about equal to tall wheatgrass.

CULTURE

Seed in firm seed bed 1/2 - 3/4" depth on loams and sandy soils but never over 3/4" deep. Seed 1/4" deep on clayey soils. Cover broadcasted seed lightly. Mulching may be beneficial on steep slopes. Seed 10 to 14 lbs. PLS per acre on semi-arid land. Plant more seed for broadcast or irrigated plantings. Plant late dormant fall or very early spring when most favorable soil moisture. After establishment seedlings are vigorous and will survive under harsh conditions.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for good pasture, forage and hay. Recommended for rangeland forage or irrigated and semi irrigated pastures with moderate saline-alkaline problems. Is more palatable than intermediate wheatgrass and stays green longer into the summer. Highly productive.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Newhy' released from Utah.

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