

SLENDER WHEATGRASS

Elymus trachycaulus ssp. *trachycaulus*



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native, cool-season, bunchgrass found throughout the northern Great Plains, northern Rocky Mountains and Intermountain regions. Cool-season, short-lived, perennial bunchgrass. Variable ecotypes. Culms erect, 1.5 to 4' tall, from medium sized tufts. Leaves primarily basal, wide flat, blades 8 to 12" long. Inflorescence a spike 3 to 8" long.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted on sandy to clayey soils. Rapid establishing grass with good seedling vigor. Primarily adapted on medium-textured, deep, and well-drained soils in areas of 12 to 18" ppt. Found on

soils and climates associated with big sagebrush, pinyon/juniper, mountain shrub, open aspen, and subalpine communities. It is alkali tolerant, relatively short lived and less drought-resistant than western wheatgrass. Seldom found in pure stands. Slender wheatgrass is self-fertile. Longevity of solid stands is about 4 to 6 years.

CULTURE

Drill 1/2 - 1" deep in fine and medium textured soils. Cover lightly if broadcasted. Seeding rates are 5.5 to 11 lbs. PLS per acre. Use heavier rates when broadcasting or on critical areas. Seed in early spring and late fall, but seeding time can vary from region to region. On ski slopes and mountainous areas, seed following construction. Works well with mountain brome, fescues and bluegrass for quick cover on disturbed sites in mountainous regions. Rapid cover will prevent exotic weedy species from invading.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Principal use is rapid cover for roadsides, disturbed soils, mine lands, and ski slopes. It is also used for forage on rangelands and in mixtures with sweetclover for green manure in short crop rotations. Slender wheatgrass is sometimes planted alone on land put into conservation reserve, on watersheds, and on highway fills. Moderately long-lived when planted alone.

Adapted to irrigated pastures and green manure crops with clovers. It is productive and has a growth rate similar to sweetclover and red clover.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Primar' released from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

'Pryor' released from Montana and Wyoming.

'San Luis' released from Colorado.

'Revenue' released from Canada.

'Elbee' released from Canada.

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