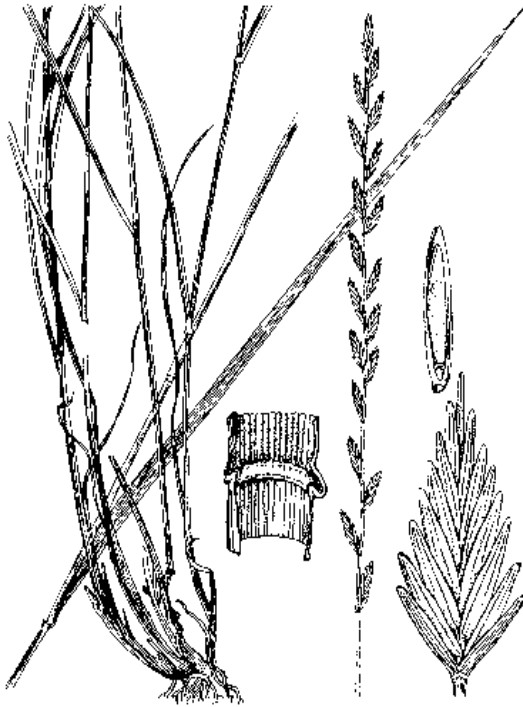


# TALL WHEATGRASS

*Elytrigia elongata*



## ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to Turkey, Asia Minor, Russia, and introduced in U.S. for forage on saline meadows and seashores. Widely adapted in the U.S. A coarse, 4 to 6' tall, cool season bunchgrass. Rather wide bluish-green leaves with flat or inrolled 1/4" wide, 8 to 16" long. Matures 1 to 3 weeks later than western wheatgrass.

## GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on sandy to clayey soils but less productive on clays or sands. High tolerance of saline, and sodic soils. Moderate fertility needed for good production without legumes.

Adapted to irrigation or sub-irrigated conditions. Needs about 14" ppt. or more with optimum of 16 to 20" ppt. Tolerates 5 to 7 weeks of early flooding. Good winter hardiness. Does not do well if overgrazed or defoliated. Good fire tolerance when dormant.

## CULTURE

Plant seed 1/4 - 3/4" deep, up to 1" deep on coarse-textured soils and up to 1 1/2" on dryer and loose seedbeds. Plant approximately 10 lbs. PLS per acre/ dryland and 10 to 20 lbs. PLS per acre on irrigated or sub-irrigated lands. Seed in early spring; below 4,000' elevation, can seed between Aug. 15 - Sept. 15 in Great Basin and Pacific northwestern states. Seed 2 to 4 weeks before favorable summer ppt. in southern Great Plains. Control weeds with herbicides in early stands. Do not graze until established.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for irrigated pasture, hay, silage, and standing winter feed. Rather palatable early, less palatable after maturity starts. Also used on dryland for re-vegetation in western U.S. for wildlife, especially birds, cover on sodic areas. Used for snow and wind barriers and erosion control. Fair palatability to livestock before heading. Sheep graze in patches. Needs good grazing management for uniform use and production.

## IMPROVED VARIETIES

- 'Alkar' released from Washington.
- 'Jose' released from New Mexico.
- 'Largo' released from New Mexico.
- 'Orbit' released from Canada.
- 'Platte' released from Nebraska and Wyoming.

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