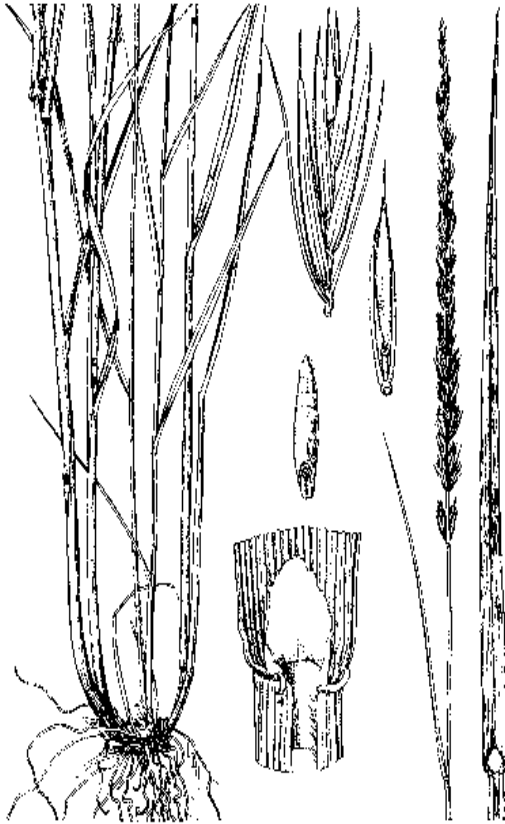


BASIN WILDRYE

Leymus cinereus



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to the Rocky Mountains, Intermountain West region and adjacent areas. Tall, coarse, cool season bunchgrass. Robust, forming large clumps with erect culms 3 to 6' or taller, typically without, but often with, short rhizomes. Leaf blades wide, long, and flat. Inflorescence a stout, stiffly erect spike 8 to 12", sometimes branched. Extensive soil binding, with coarse, fibrous root system.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to same soils as tall wheatgrass. Optimal in silty and clayey soils. Various ecotypes

tolerant of strongly saline and saline sodic soils. Better adapted to winter wet than winter dry climates. Adapted to below 10" to over 20" ppt. Does well in overflow and subirrigated sites. Tolerant of poor drainage, short-term winter flooding and water table intermittently in top foot of soil. Grows at 1,000 to 9,000' elevation. Starts very early spring growth. Tolerant of partial shade of shrublands and woodlands. Moderate grazing resistance but susceptible to damage from intense early spring grazing.

CULTURE

Similar culture to tall wheatgrass. Seed at 1" depth and drill 5 to 10 lbs. PLS per acre. Seed late fall or as early as possible in spring for mountain sites. Fair seedling vigor. Stands establish by second or third season. Not often seeded in mixtures. Fair summer and fall regrowth where sub-irrigated. Seedlings need moisture for establishment in saline sodic soils.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Good for spring and fall range-forage, pasture and hay. Species seeded on subirrigated and flooded sites good for standing winter hay. Potentially useful for soil stabilization, disturbed soils and mine lands. Excellent upland game bird cover and emergency winter forage for big game and livestock. Better palatability early in season and good winter forage and cover above snow. Useful as fencerow plantings and field and windbreak borders. Withhold grazing in spring until 12 to 15" high, and leave at least 6" stubble after grazing. Produces high forage yields with irrigation.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Manger' released from Idaho.

'Trailhead' released from Montana.

PawneeButtesSeedInc.

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