

BLUE WILDRYE

Elymus glaucus



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to the U.S. and of primary importance to the north-central and western United States. Rapid developing, short-lived, cool season, perennial bunchgrass. common on cutover or burned lands in the Pacific Northwest. A highly self-fertile, self-pollinated species.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to soils that range from well to somewhat poorly drained with sandy to clayey textures. Generally prefers moderately acid to neutral soils (pH 5.2 to 7.0). Habitats include open

woods, prairies, thickets and moist or dry hillsides from sea level to 10,000' elevation.

Exhibits intermediate shade tolerance and full sun to partial shade. Generally abundant on moist soils, some populations are considerably drought tolerant. Extensively differentiated into ecotypes and ecospecies suggesting genetic adaptation to broadly divergent environments. Shade tolerant.

CULTURE

Prefers moist, fine, very firm, weed-free seedbed. Recommended seeding rate is 7 to 13 lbs. PLS per acre when drilled. Seeding depth no greater than 1/2". The seed germinates readily within 6 to 10 days and no special seed treatment is required. Spring seeding from late March through early May. Fall seeding has been used but weeds can be a problem, especially annual bluegrass.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Fair to good forage for big game and livestock, compatible with tree plantings. Also used to restore native plant communities and rehabilitation of cutover woodlands. As a pioneer species, recommended for quick, self-perpetuating cover. Good native for erosion control on steep, eroded slopes, roadsides, or fire damaged sites.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Arlington' released from Oregon and Washington.

'Anderson'

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