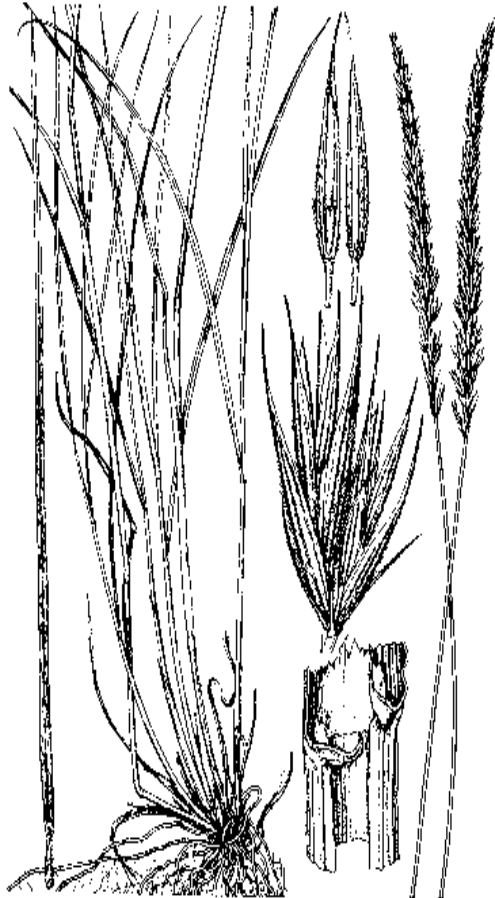


RUSSIAN WILDRYE

Psathyrostachys juncea



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from USSR; performs well in northern Great Plains, Intermountain, and Rocky Mountain regions. Long-lived, cool season, perennial bunchgrass. Tufted, basal leaved, superficially resembling crested wheatgrass. Short, dense, flat cylindrical spike with two or more short-awned spikelets clustered at axis joints. Extensive fibrous root system. Early spring growth.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to droughty soils similar to crested wheatgrass. Optimal in silty and clayey soils. Tolerant of strongly saline nonsodic soils. Better adapted to winter wet than winter dry climates. Tolerant of summer heat. Adapted to below 8" to over 20" ppt. Not tolerant of winter flooding and shallow water table. Grows at 1,000 to 9,000' elevation. Good grazing resistance but susceptible to damage from repeated early spring grazing. Good summers and fall regrowth when moisture is available.

CULTURE

Similar culture to crested wheatgrass. Seed at 1/4 - 3/4" depth and drill 5 to 10 lbs. PLS per acre. Seed late fall or as early as possible in spring for mountain sites. Weak seedling vigor and less drought resistance in seedling stage, but stands will usually develop by third or fourth season. Once established Russian wildrye is very competitive and will self thin to spaced bunches. Not often seeded in mixtures.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for range, pasture and hay. Good spring and fall forage. Fair palatability to livestock, deer and elk in spring and fall. Matures earlier than crested wheatgrass. Makes good regrowth, stays green all summer with moisture and good fall regrowth. Longevity 25 years or longer in northern Great Plains.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

- 'Mayak' released from Canada.
- 'Sawki' released from Canada.
- 'Vinal' released from North and South Dakota.
- 'Bozoisky-Select' released from Utah.
- 'Cabree' released from Canada.
- 'Mankota' released from North Dakota.
- 'Tetracan' released from Canada.
- 'Swift' released from Canada.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

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