

Slender Wheatgrass

A cool season, perennial bunchgrass.

Re-vegetation Series:

This is a series of fact sheets on plants being used as trials on berms, roadways, and pipelines. Trials as well as demos are done on several locations in the B.C. Peace Region.



Description:

- A bunchgrass that is erect and tufted with a dense and fibrous root system.
- Grows to a height of 2 to 3 ¼ feet (61 to 100 cm).
- The seedstalks and stems have a slight reddish to purple color at the base.
- Stems typically range from 30 to 120 cm (12 to 47 in) with leaves that are usually flat.
- Seed heads are slender and 8 to 20 cm (3 to 8 in) long with overlapping spikelets.

Habitat/Climate:

- Prefers loamy soil that receives at least 14 inches of precipitation annually.
- Occupies moderately moist to dry grasslands, meadows, forest openings and rocky ridges.

	Slender Wheatgrass	Points to Consider
Most Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be harvested for hay under optimal conditions • Widely used in restoration and reclamation situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seedling vigour is better than other native grasses • Also used for post-wildfire restoration, mine reclamation, and seeding of roadside right-of-ways and other disturbances
Optimal Grazing Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazed at the 4-leaf stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should only be grazed once per year • Maintains growth into summer, and can be grazed in fall and winter
Forage Yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable depending on the site and establishment conditions
Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be considered a persistent weed where well established
Hardiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate resistance to weeds • Fair drought tolerance • Good winter hardiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be useful for reducing weedy species if applied immediately after disturbance • Often used in erosion control applications
Use in Seed Mixture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding rate of 6 lbs per acre is recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding rate should be reduced when combined with slower establishing native species to reduce seedling competition
Common Varieties in the Peace Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adanac 	

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Crested Wheatgrass

A hardy, perennial bunchgrass with fibrous roots.

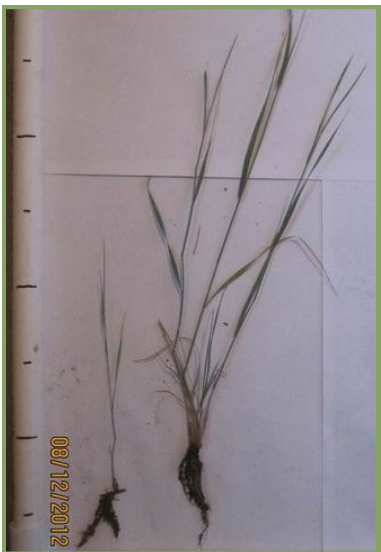


Description:

- Grows 1 to 3 feet (~30 to 90 cm) tall.
- Seed spikes are short and broad.
- Each seed has a short awn and its stems are leafy, forming tufts.
- Root system is dense, fibrous and can penetrate to below 10 feet (300 cm).
- Leaf sheaths are open, and the lower sheaths smooth to somewhat hairy on the upper surfaces.

Habitat/Climate:

- Grows best on fine textured, well drained soil with an average precipitation of 10 inches, but can grow in a wide variety of soils.
- Crested wheat is excellent for soil stabilization due to its fibrous root system.



	Crested Wheatgrass	Points to Consider
Most Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasture • Hay production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good forage in early spring • High tolerance for close grazing
Optimal Grazing Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very early to early spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of grass for pasture decreases significantly after heading
Forage Yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yields improve with better soil and moisture
Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not work well in seed mixes with native grasses
Hardiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very drought tolerant • High winter hardiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed production does not decrease much in dry years • Very competitive with weeds where it is well established • Good choice for erosion control on semi-arid sites • In dry conditions it may take three to six years for plants to fully develop and for the stand to become free of weeds • One of the most cold-hardy forage grasses
Use in Seed Mixture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfalfa can be added to a mix to improve forage quality where precipitation permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stands can be heavily used without reducing the long term yield
Common Varieties in the Peace Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirk 	



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