



Beardless Wheatgrass

BEARDLESS WHEATGRASS(*agropyron inerme*) is an important cool-season perennial bunchgrass in the intermountain region from western Montana to central Washington, south into Nevada and Utah. It is widely adapted to the sites on which it is found, being greatly affected by soil and climate. **Beardless Wheatgrass** is moderately abundant with erect to semierect small stems, and abundant soft, flat, narrow leaves. **Beardless Wheatgrass** grows best on coarse or medium textured soils.

BEARDLESS WHEATGRASS is a high producer of roots and crowns. This fact has made it a preferred choice for erosion control and reclamation on adapted sites. The roots are fine and produce a rough, persistent sod.

The cultivar **Whitmar** was released by the PMC at Pullman, Washington, after collections were made from native stands in the Palouse prairie grasslands. These plants were thriving in areas with less than 20 inches of annual precipitation at elevations of 2,800 feet.

Whitmar proved to be a long-lived perennial bunchgrass, of the Intermediate type. It is considered to be drought resistant and vigorous. Seedling vigor of Whitmar Beardless Wheatgrass is good, and seed production is high. Whitmar rates high in forage production and is considered a valuable forage crop at higher elevations.

Unlike some similar species, Beardless Wheatgrass demonstrates good spring and fall recovery and retains its feed value and palatability late into summer. A strong dense root structure helps the plant use available moisture as well as control erosion on high slopes. Under adverse climatic conditions Whitmar yielded more feed and more consistent production than similar species. This is especially true as stands become older. It maintains its nutrients better than introduced grasses and is sometimes used as standing hay during late fall and winter months. Seed germination remains above 70 % for 6 years if stored under cool and dry conditions.



