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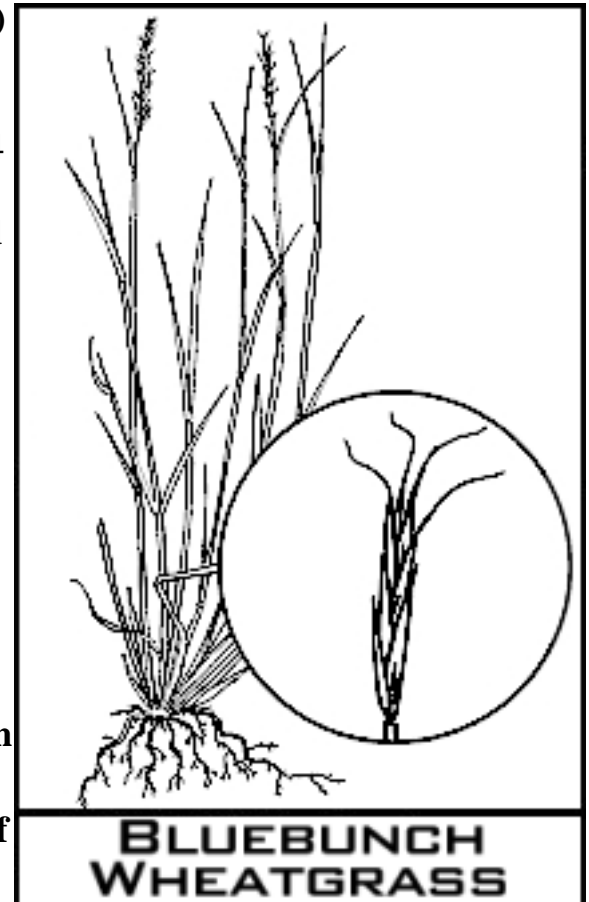
Clinton, MO (660) 885-7551

## Bluebunch Wheatgrass

**BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS**(*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) is a native, cool season bunchgrass found throughout the western United States. The more typical **Bluebunch Wheatgrass** ranges from green to blue in color and is 1.5 to 4 feet tall. It is adapted to sandy, silty and clayey soils. Bluebunch can also be found growing on thin, rocky sites and on relatively steep slopes. It grows best where precipitation is in the 10 to 20 inch range but can also grow in areas with as little as 8 inches or as much as 35 inches. The elevation range is from 500 to 10,000 feet.

### FACTS ABOUT BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS:

- **Bluebunch Wheatgrass is tolerant of weakly saline soils. It cannot grow on very alkaline or very acid soils.**
- **The plant will grow in full sun or semishade.**
- **It is generally winter hardy although this varies with location.**
- **Bluebunch wheatgrass demonstrates a fair degree of fire tolerance.**
- **It can withstand grazing all year except early spring.**
- **It will not grow on perpetually wet sites nor under a dense canopy, requiring good drainage and at least some sunlight.**



### VARIETIES:

**Secar** is a **Bluebunch Wheatgrass** from a native plant collection made in Idaho. The name was selected to reflect drought tolerance (Seca meaning "dry" in Spanish). It is adapted to low rainfall areas (8 to 14 inches). **Secar** has proven to be equal or superior to other similar species in drought tolerance, forage production, spring recovery, root and crown production and seed yield potential. **Secar** is early maturing and persistent even under adverse conditions.

## **ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT**

**Bluebunch Wheatgrass** should be drilled at depths of one-half inch on loams, one-fourth inch on clays and three-fourths inch on sand. The recommended seeding rate is 5 to 10 lbs.PLS/acre for range lands. This amount should be adjusted by 50% to 100% on south-facing slopes, highly erosive areas, harsh sites or where the seed is to be broadcast. Seeding should take place in early spring or late fall, with seed being prechilled to reduce dormancy.

Seedling vigor is fair and it may take as much as 3 years to establish a stand. Seedlings are not vigorous enough to withstand intense competition from stronger species.

**Bluebunch Wheatgrass** begins growth in very early spring about the same time as Desert Wheatgrass but matures 1 to 3 weeks earlier. Under favorable conditions it can make moderate fall regrowth.

This species is moderately palatable to livestock, elk, deer and antelope in the spring and early fall. New stands should be protected from grazing for two years or until the roots are firmly established and seedheads are formed. It is very susceptible to over-grazing. Stands should not be grazed after May. Mowing for hay is possible where stands are thick enough and the site is accessible.

