



Slender Wheatgrass

SLENDER WHEATGRASS (*Agropyron trachycaulum* or *Elymus trachylus*) is a domesticated native bunch grass with wide adaptation to many different soils and climates. It is an erect, tufted bunchgrass that reaches 2 to 2 1/2 feet in height. **Slender Wheatgrass** is a relatively short-lived, cool-season perennial found in the mountain and intermountain areas of the Western United States. It has very short rhizomes and seedstalks and stems have a characteristic reddish to purplish tinge at the base.

FACTS ABOUT SLENDER WHEATGRASS:

- **Slender Wheatgrass was the first native grass widely used for reseeding in the Western United States and Canada.**
- **Slender Wheatgrass demonstrates good seedling development.**
- **Slender Wheatgrass is alkali tolerant (up to 8.8 pH).**
- **It can be found growing from 4500 to 12,000 feet in elevation.**
- **Growing best on moderately, well drained sites, it can also be found on somewhat moist to dry sites.**
- **It is seldom found in pure stands.**
- **Slender Wheatgrass is shade tolerant and salt tolerant.**
- **Slender Wheatgrass is among the preferred native grasses for elk and bighorn sheep.**



VARIETIES:

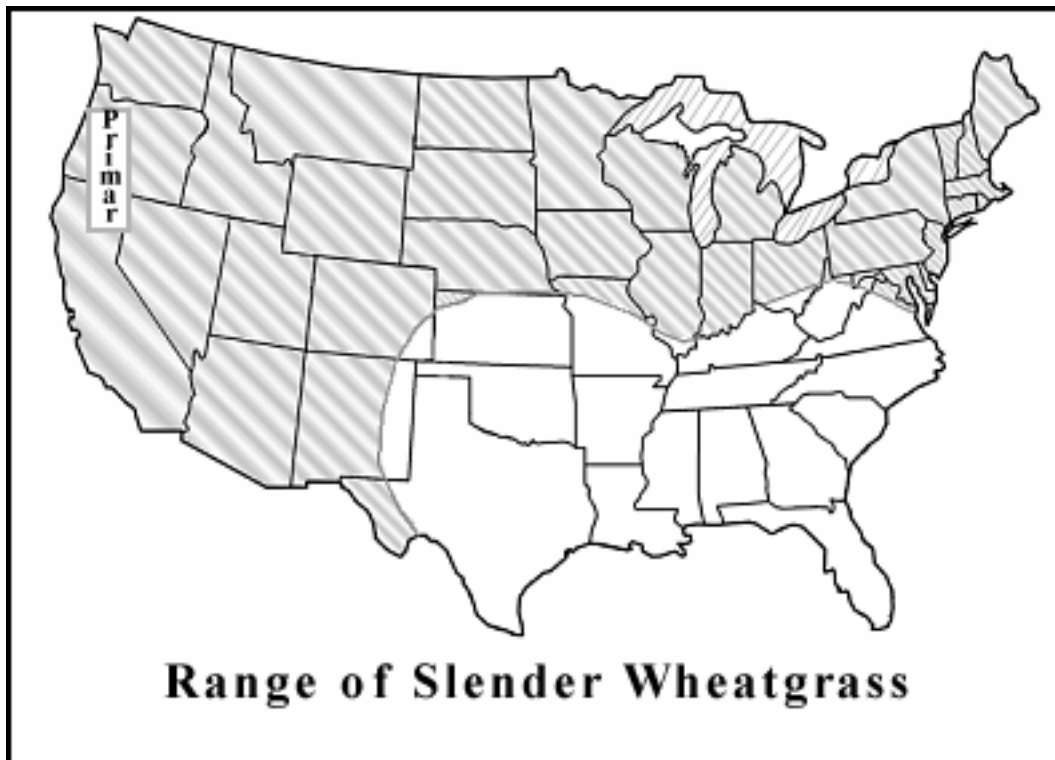
Primar was developed by the PMC at Pullman, Washington. Primar possesses good seedling vigor, demonstrates ease in establishment and has good forage production. Selected because of early spring recovery, seeds also mature as much as 10 days earlier than other wheatgrasses. It is resistant to leaf rust, stem rust, and head smut. Seed production is moderately heavy, and seeds are fairly large. Primar **Slender Wheatgrass** is planted alone on lands put into conservation reserve, on watersheds and highway tills.

ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT

The seeding of **Slender Wheatgrass** is usually done by using a conventional drill. Drilling depths should be 1/4 to 3/4 inch. Medium textured well drained soils are preferred. A rate of 6 pounds PLS/acre is recommended. Seeding in critical areas, disturbed sites, or the broadcasting of seeds requires approximately double the usual rate. Seedling vigor is excellent. New stands increase in size by vigorous tillering.

Slender Wheatgrass is best suited for grass mixtures which contain species that are slower in establishing and are longer-lived. The seedlings sprout quickly providing excellent ground cover on mountain and foothill sites, and then the slower establishing grasses will establish to provide a permanent cover.

The plant is only moderately tolerant of grazing requiring good management to maintain stands. It is best suited for hay and pasture when grown with a legume.



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