JOHNSTON SEED COMPANY
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Plant Name: Western Wheatgrass

Scientific name: *Pascopyrum smithii* (Rydb.) A. Love

Short Description:
Western Wheatgrass is a cool-season, native, perennial, sod-forming grass best adapted to the fine soils of the Western and Midwestern regions of the United States.

Description:
Western Wheatgrass is a cool-season, native, perennial grass that has coarse blue-green leaves and ranges in height from 1 to 2 feet. Western Wheatgrass can tolerate many stressful environments including saline and saline-sodic soils, drought, and flooding. It is very cold hardy, shade tolerant, and grazing resistant. Western Wheatgrass greens up in March or April, matures in August, and goes dormant in early winter. In native areas it is typically found with blue grama, buffalograss, needlegrasses, rough fescue, and blue junegrass.
Western Wheatgrass is moderately palatable prior to maturity to many classes of wildlife and livestock.

Taxonomic Classification: Western Wheatgrass

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosida
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	*Pascopyrum*
Species	*Pascopyrum smithii* (Rydb.) A. Love

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	12 to 24 inches
Growth habit:	sod forming with rhizoms
Bloom period:	mid summer
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	blue-green
Seeds per pound:	115,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	50 ºF
Soil pH range:	4.5 to 9.0
Planting Rate:	1 PLS lb/2000 sq ft or 10 to 15 PLS lb/acre
Planting Depth:	½ to ¾ inch
Planting season:	fall

Use:

Erosion control: Western Wheatgrass is commonly used in conservation applications and land reclamation due its high stress tolerance and sod-forming ability. It is one of the most common components of native grass mixes.

Livestock: Western Wheatgrass is moderately palatable to many classes of livestock. Cattle tend to prefer it more so than sheep. Nitrogen fertilization will increase forage yield and palatability.

Landscape: Western Wheatgrass can be used in full sun and partial shaded areas of the landscape. It is relatively maintenance free since its sod-forming characteristic crowds out most weeds once established.

Commercially Available Cultivars:

'Barton' (1970, cooperatively released by Plant Materials Center, Manhattan, KS, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, and Plant Science Research Division, ARS.
'Arriba' (1973, cooperatively by SCS-Los Lunas, NM, Colorado Agricultural Experminet Station, and New Mexico State Highway Department.
'Rosanna' (1972, cooperatively by the Plant Materials Center, SCS, Bridger, ID, and Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.)