

Plant Name: Canada Wildrye

Scientific name: *Elymus Canadensis* L.

Short Description:

Canada Wildrye is a native, cool-season, perennial bunchgrass used for prairie restoration, livestock forage, and soil conservation.

Description:

Canada Wildrye is a native, cool-season perennial bunchgrass that grows to 4 feet tall and is commonly found along sandy shores, wooded areas, and other disturbed sites. Canada Wildrye is well adapted throughout the northeast, north, and western United States. Unlike the warm-season native grasses, Canada Wildrye has excellent seedling vigor, establishes quickly, and has very good shade tolerance. If planted for grazing, Canada Wildrye must be carefully managed. The overgrazing of Canada Wildrye will lead to a decrease in plant population. Canada Wildrye utilized for hay should be cut at boot stage to maximize quality.

Taxonomic Classification:

Canada Wildrye

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosidea
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Elymus</i>
Species	<i>Elymus Canadensis</i> L.

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	36 to 48 inches
Growth habit:	bunchgrass
Bloom period:	late spring
Sun requirement:	full sun to shade
Leaf foliage color:	green
Seeds per pound:	115,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	50 °F
Soil pH range:	5.0 to 7.9
Planting Rate:	1 PLS lb/ 3000 sq ft or 10 PLS lbs/acre
Planting Depth:	½ inch
Planting season:	spring or fall



Use:

Erosion control: Canada Wildrye is classified as an excellent species for soil conservation. The excellent seedling vigor and quick establishment make it an excellent component for mixing with warm-season grasses when quick stabilization is needed.

Livestock: Canada Wildrye provides good quality forage early in the season but declines quickly following seed head formation and maturity. Energy values are rated good but crude protein content is deficient.

Wildlife: Canada Wildrye is utilized by upland birds for nesting and brood habitat.

Landscape: Canada Wildrye is used in shady areas in native landscapes and is the mature plants are typically cut for dried floral arrangements.