

Canada Wildrye

- ◆ Tall growing, coarse perennial bunch
- ◆ Winter hardy
- ◆ Well adapted to many kinds of soil
- ◆ Produces early spring grazing
- ◆ Vigorous seedlings
- ◆ Matures in the 1st or 2nd year
- ◆ Beautiful curving seedheads



10-12 PLS lbs/Acre Alone
2-3 PLS lbs/Acre in Mix

Planting Date: April1—May1

Germination Rate: 14 Days

Estimated Life Expectancy:
10 + Years

Canada Wildrye

DESCRIPTION

Canada Wildrye is a tall growing, coarse perennial bunch grass. Winter hardy, it grows well on many kinds of soil, but is especially adapted to sandy soils. Produces early spring grazing from vigorous seedlings. Canada Wildrye matures in the first or second year, ahead of other longer-lived prairie grasses and flowers. You will enjoy the view of Canada Wildrye with its curving seedheads that resemble cultivated rye.

APPLICATION

Growth of Canada Wildrye will begin in the fall and continue to grow until the temperatures are consistently below 20° F. Growth will resume in early spring and continue into summer if moisture conditions are favorable. Where found, Canada Wildrye grows fairly abundantly. It is found in open sunny areas, but also thrives in shaded areas along timber borders and in the damper areas of the bottomlands.

USES

Canada Wildrye is considered a desirable component of re-established prairies, native wildlife habitat and areas prone to excess moisture.

SEEDING

Rates: 2-3 PLS lbs/Acre. in new seeding mixtures.

Depth: Sow at no more than 1/2 inch in depth. Emerging seedlings lack the strength to push through too much overlying soil. More seed has been lost to poor planting practices than anything else; this is especially true of seed depth.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Soil Preparation: For the best conservation practice, no-till the seed into the stubble of a previous crop or the existing stand of another species that has been successfully eradicated. Pay close attention to previous land use practices. If a row crop has been planted for many years in succession a herbicide carryover is possible. If you feel you must plow up the site before planting, prepare your seedbed like you would for any other crop. The seedbeds need to be firm, not fluffy, so the seed will not be planted at an inappropriate depth. Use a cultipacker to firm your seedbed or some other type of roller that will create a smooth planting area that is not too hard.

NPK requirement (Pasture): We do not recommend the use of fertilizer the first year, at least not nitrogen. Moderate levels of phosphorus and potassium are beneficial, especially for root establishment, which is a primary activity of the plant the first year. Use a soil test to help you decide that. Fertilizer may be applied the second year to enhance vigor and production of forage. It is not necessary to fertilize at all, but stand strength may be compromised without it.

Weed Control: We recommend a controlled burn every 1-3 years if possible. If not, then a mowing pattern should be established in order to control woody species invasion and prevent thatch build up. If you mow, mow no lower than 8 inches and no later than August 1.

IDENTIFICATION

Culm: Erect, slender to stout, hollow, 2.5—6 ft tall, glabrous, green or glaucous.

Blades: Flat or involute, 4-12 inches long, .2-.6 inches wide, slightly narrowed toward the base, tapering to a fine point, margins with fine teeth. The upper surface is scabrous and the lower surface has a prominent midrib.

Sheath: Mostly longer than the internodes, rounded, glabrous or rarely pubescent. There are prominent finger-like auricles that clasp the culm.

Ligule: Membranous, truncate, entire to erose.

Inflorescence: Dense terminal spikes that are erect or nodding, 2 to 12 inches long, exerted from the leaf sheaf, occasionally interrupted below.

Spikelets: Usually 1-4 spikelets at each node, overlapping, slightly spreading, sessile at the alternate notches of the rachis, 2-7 flowered. The lemma awns are .5—1.5 inches long.



Area of Adaptation

