

‘Vavilov II’ Siberian Wheatgrass Cooperatively Released
Submitted by Loren St. John, Aberdeen Plant Materials Center

The United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service, the United States Army - Engineer Research and Development Center, Utah State Agricultural Experiment Station, and the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service announce the release of the cultivar ‘Vavilov II’ Siberian wheatgrass for use on arid and semiarid rangelands as a rapidly establishing grass for the Intermountain West, Great Basin, and Northern Great Plains Regions of the United States. Vavilov II was developed and tested as part of a cooperative program to identify resilient plant cultivars for use on military training areas. It was selected for persistence and overall plant and seedling vigor in response to drought. Vavilov II has been evaluated extensively on rangeland sites in the western United States with seedling establishment and forage yield superior to existing commercially available cultivars of Siberian wheatgrass.

The parent material for ‘VAVILOV II’ Siberian wheatgrass was selected from evaluation trials at Yakima, WA, Curlew Valley, ID, and Lakeside, UT and included collections made from the Steppes of Kazakhstan in 1988 by the Agricultural Research Service.

Rapid seedling establishment is one of the primary keys to successful grass planting in the western United States. Selection emphasis in Vavilov II Siberian wheatgrass was for seedling establishment and plant persistence.

Breeder, Foundation, and Certified seed classes will be recognized. Breeder seed will be maintained by the USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research Laboratory at Logan, UT. Foundation seed will be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center at Aberdeen, ID. Protection under the U.S. Plant Variety Protection Act of 1994 will be applied for, with the requirement that seed of Vavilov II can be marketed only as a class of certified seed.

Seed growers may contact the University of Idaho Foundation Seed Program or the Utah Crop Improvement Association to obtain Foundation seed. Certified seed of Vavilov II for new plantings will be available in several years. For further information, please contact the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center at (208)397-4133.

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Vavilov II Siberian Wheatgrass Foundation seed production field at NRCS Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, Idaho.

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