

# Greenar Intermediate Wheatgrass



Cooperative Extension Service  
College of Agriculture  
Washington State University  
Pullman

# Greenar Intermediate Wheatgrass

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## Description

Greenar intermediate wheatgrass is mildly sod-forming and late-maturing. Its seedling vigor is good, making it rather easy to establish. Because it is late-maturing, it makes a good mixture with alfalfa since it is not fully headed, coarse, and stemmy before the alfalfa is ready to cut for hay. Intermediate wheatgrass yields are high in eastern Washington. It is an introduction from the Caspian region of Russia.

## Adaptation

Use Greenar intermediate wheatgrass in eastern Washington only for hay, silage, and pasture. It is recommended in areas with 12 or more inches of rainfall or those under irrigation. Adapted to well-drained soils, it will not do well on poorly drained or waterlogged soils. You can use intermediate wheatgrass for range reseeding, as a grass in rotation with other crops, as a grass with alfalfa for hay production, or with alfalfa for pastures.

Do not seed intermediate wheatgrass in alternate rows with alfalfa if you plan to graze it. Alternate row seeding is a good practice if it is to be used only for hay. If alternate row seedings are made, livestock often selectively graze out the alfalfa.

## Seed Production

Seed production of intermediate wheatgrass is adapted to a wide area. It does best with at least 15 inches of rainfall and at elevations of 1,000 to 3,500 feet. It is grown for seed on dryland areas in eastern Washington and under irrigation in central Washington.

Intermediate wheatgrass will cross pollinate with pubescent wheatgrass. You must have adequate isolation to prevent cross-pollination when growing certified seed.

*Seeding Rate.* Four pounds of clean seed per acre is recommended for seed production row plantings.

Foundation seed of Greenar intermediate wheatgrass is available through the Washington State Crop Improvement Association and the soil conservation districts. Registered seed is available through most of your local seed dealers.

*Seed Yields.* Seed yields are generally highest the second through the fourth season. On favorable sites and with proper management, high seed yields can be maintained for longer periods. Average yields under row spacing at Pullman have ranged from 200 to 400 pounds of clean seed per acre. Under irrigation, higher yields have been obtained.

*Harvesting Seed.* Intermediate wheatgrass may be combined directly from the field or swathed, and harvested directly from the swath.

## Recommended Mixtures

The recommended mixture for pastures is 8 pounds intermediate wheatgrass and 4 pounds alfalfa per acre. Plant on a well-prepared seedbed, and apply 20 pounds of available nitrogen to establish the stand. If you seed intermediate wheatgrass alone, use 8 pounds of seed and 20 pounds available nitrogen. In areas of 16 or more inches of rainfall, apply 60 pounds of available nitrogen for top production each growing season.

For seed production in the dryland Palouse region, 40 to 60 pounds of available nitrogen are recommended. Twenty to 40 pounds of available nitrogen are recommended in the 10- to 15-inch rainfall area. Under irrigation, 80 pounds or more of available nitrogen have given the highest yields of grass seed.

Issued in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service, John P. Miller, Director, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

3M272 EM