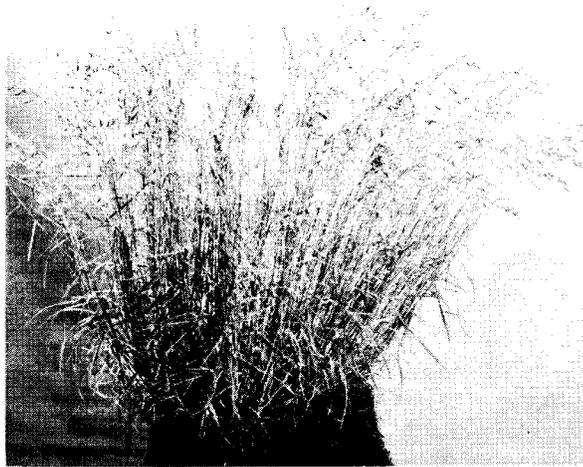


Management
and
uses
of
'DRAYLAR'
UPLAND
BLUEGRASS



In the State of Washington

'Draylar' upland bluegrass *Poa glaucantha* Gaudin was developed from a 1935 introduction collected in Turkey. It was tested and propagated as P-410 by the USDA-SCS Plant Materials Center at Pullman, Washington and released for certified seed production in 1951. In 1964 it was named Draylar and registered by the USDA-ARS Crops Research Division and the American Society of Agronomy.

DESCRIPTION

This bluegrass is a perennial, loosely tufted glaucous grass. Plants increase in size by slow tillering. Culms are numerous, compressed, fine, wiry, decumbent at the base and reach a height of 16" at maturity. Leaf blades are numerous, flat, short, dark green and well distributed on the culms. Seed heads are numerous, lax, and become brownish, compact and nodding when ripe. Seeds are small, lemmas are lightly pubescent and sparsely webbed at the base.

ADAPTIONS

Climate - Draylar is adapted where Canada bluegrass grows well. It is completely winter hardy in northern areas. Good performance requires a minimum of 18 inches or more of annual precipitation or equivalent irrigation. Draylar is moderately shade tolerant.

Soils - it is widely adapted to fine textured soils especially low fertility clay soils and cut over timbered areas where soils are slightly to moderately acidic.

USES

Erosion Control - Draylar is primarily a ground cover grass. It has been mostly used on roadsides, ditchbanks and for cover under tree plantings. Its low growth and production require minimum maintenance. Its superior characteristics are dark green color, persistent low dense growth, adaptation to low fertility soils, reseeding potential, and resistance to common stem and leaf rusts.

Recreation - Its low and persistent growth makes it valuable for rough lawns, playgrounds, fairways, campsites and parks where only a minimum care is possible.

Livestock - It is palatable, nutritious and resistant to grazing but is a low producer. It is not recommended for hay or pasture production.

Wildlife - Provides ground cover, nesting sites and escape cover for upland game birds when planted in combination with taller growing grasses.

Seed Production - Draylar should be planted in rows spaced 24 to 36 inches apart where cultivation is possible. In solid seedings where cultivation is not possible, plant with a 12-14 inch row spacing. Apply 40 lbs of nitrogen per acre in the establishment year and 60 lbs annually thereafter. Seed matures in early July. Seed does not shatter readily. Draylar produces 300 to 600 lbs per acre, which is 30% higher than for Canada bluegrass. Like many other bluegrasses Draylar has cottony hairs at the base of each seed. Careful threshing and processing removes this cotton so the seed will flow freely.

ESTABLISHMENT

Draylar establishes readily from shallow drilling or broadcast seedings on a firm weed-free seedbed. Seed is usually of good quality over 90% purity and 95% germination. A normal seeding rate is from 5 to 10 lbs per acre. 1 lb of seed per acre provides 60 seeds per sq. ft. Seed in the early spring. The application of wood fiber or clean straw mulch facilitates establishment.

MANAGEMENT

Weeds should be controlled by spraying in the establishment years. Delay heavy traffic use or grazing until plants are well established. The application of 20 to 40 lbs of nitrogen per acre annually will maintain vigorous competitive growth. Clipping once or twice a year improves appearance of seedings. If stands are thin delay clipping until after seed maturity.

REFERENCES

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