



Pubescent Wheatgrass

PUBESCENT WHEATGRASS (Agropyron

Trichophorum) is an introduced species of Wheatgrass, brought into the United States from Eurasia in 1934. It is a long-lived, sod-forming, cool-season grass that is closely related to Intermediate Wheatgrass, but is more drought tolerant and winter-hardy. Because of a dense covering of hairs it is sometimes called 'stiff-hair wheatgrass'. The plants spread by rhizomes and may reach a height of 3 to 4 feet.

Pubescent Wheatgrass is adapted to a wide range of precipitation, temperature, and elevation, and good stands on rangeland retard the invasion of sagebrush and rabbitbrush.

FACTS ABOUT PUBESCENT WHEATGRASS:

- **Pubescent Wheatgrass is primarily used for permanent seedings on rangeland and for waterways on farmland.**
- **Pubescent Wheatgrass establishes quickly but produces forage that somewhat less palatable than other wheatgrasses.**
- **It performs best on well drained, slightly acid, neutral, or even mildly alkaline soils.**
- **Pubescent Wheatgrass can be used for wildlife plantings as it provides dense nesting cover, early spring green-up, and stands well during winter months.**
- **Pubescent Wheatgrass has been primarily used in the intermountain and northern Great Plains on sites about 3,500 feet in elevation and the annual precipitation is above 12 inches. If seeded at lower elevations, more moisture is required.**
- **It is a disease free grass but is subject to injury by the Banks grass mite. Applications of sulfur effectively control these mites.**



VARIETIES:

Mandan 759 has shown excellent seedling vigor and forage production in the Northern Great Plains. It spreads rapidly under favorable conditions.

Luna is an excellent dry-land pasture grass on the deeper soils of the sagebrush/scrub oak zone. It is a good seed producer and has consistently produced more forage than other wheatgrass strains. Luna is used in the Central and Northern Great Plains, Central and Northern Rockies and into the Sierra Nevada region of California.

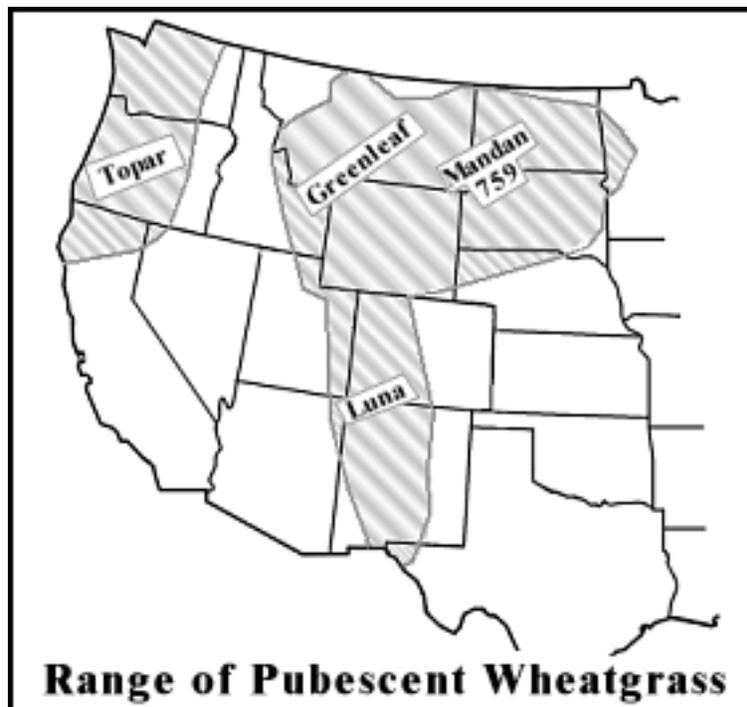
Tapar is a long-lived, late maturing, sod-forming wheatgrass. It is slow to establish but has greater drought and salt tolerance, and is better adapted to low-fertility and shallower soil sites. It is the most widely used **Pubescent Wheatgrass** in the Intermountain area.

ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT

A clean, firm, weed-free seedbed is essential to obtain good stands of **Pubescent Wheatgrass**. Fine textured and poorly drained soils should be fall plowed and left rough over winter to be seeded in early spring as soon as equipment can be used. Sites should be worked well to eliminate competition from invading weeds. In areas that can be irrigated, a fall planting is recommended: a fall planting is also recommended for areas with at least an 18" annual precipitation.

Pubescent Wheatgrass should not be seed any deeper than 1" preferably somewhat less. The planting rate should be 7 to 11 pounds per acre if drilled, 24 to 28 pounds per acre if broadcast. It can be seeded in mixes.

Pubescent Wheatgrass stays green late into summer, making it a valuable hay crop. It does not tolerate perpetually wet conditions. Do not graze new seedlings until plants will resist pulling by livestock. Severe grazing will shorten the longevity of the planting. Leave an adequate amount of leaf material after grazing so plants can replenish root reserves. Add nitrogen only when recommended by a soil test. Stands often produce well for 20 or more years.



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