

REQUEST FOR SEED COLLECTIONS

Nevada Bluegrass

Species: *Poa secunda* ssp. *nevadensis*

Common Name: Nevada Bluegrass

Project Description: The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center (PMC) is beginning a study of Nevada bluegrass (*Poa secunda* ssp. *nevadensis*) with the goal of a selected class release.

Nevada bluegrass is a perennial bunchgrass native to sagebrush/grass plant communities in the Intermountain West and Northern Great Basin.

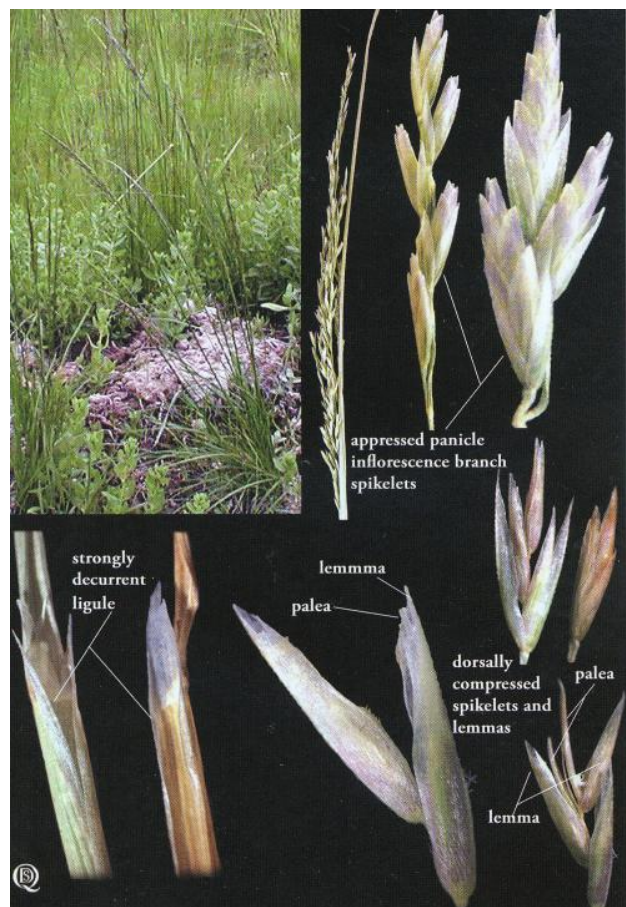
The PMC plans to make wildland seed collections in the summer of 2008 and will plant the initial study in the spring of 2009. We need your cooperation and help in locating stands, monitoring seed maturity and assisting with seed collection.

Description: Nevada bluegrass is similar to Sandberg bluegrass, but is considerably larger in stature, approximating the size of big bluegrass. This species is a perennial bunchgrass with culms as much as 100 cm (40 in) tall. Basal leaves typically reach a length of 25 cm (10 in) with a width of 1 to 3 mm (1/16 to 3/32 in). Nevada bluegrass has distinctive long acuminate ligules from 1.5 to 6 mm (1/16 to 1/4 in) long. The narrow panicles are 10 to 18 cm (4 to 7 in) long with yellowish-green to purplish-tinged spikelets.

Nevada bluegrass can be distinguished from Sandberg bluegrass by its glabrous (hairless) to scabrous (rough) lemma, long decurrent ligules and large stature.

Location: Nevada bluegrass can be found in 10 inch and greater rainfall areas in sagebrush - steppe plant communities

including mountain foothills and mountains from Alaska to southern California, through Nevada to Arizona and Colorado. In our region plants are commonly found in the lower foothills into the mountains of southern Idaho, northern Nevada and Utah, eastern Oregon and Washington and western Montana and Wyoming.



Nevada bluegrass - A Field Guide to Nevada Grasses

Time to collect: Look for flowering plants in mid-May. Seed should be ripe and ready for harvest in mid-June to mid-July. Check for ripeness by squeezing the seed between thumb and forefinger. If the seed is firm it is ready to harvest. If it exudes a soft doughy endosperm it still needs time to ripen.

How to collect: Seed can be collected by stripping inflorescences and seed by hand into paper shopping sacks, or by pruning inflorescences using shears. Ripe seed can also be shaken off into collecting bags without clipping. For genetic diversity, each seed collection should be made from no fewer than 50 plants. To provide enough seed for testing, out-planting and evaluating, we recommend collecting about a quarter shopping sack worth of materials depending on the amount of inert matter. However, more seed is always better.

Selection criteria: Select plants with good overall vigor, good seed production, and leafiness. Special selection criteria might include plants found on particularly harsh sites, good seedling establishment traits (young plants found near mother plants), and good early season growth.

Things to include: Along with your seed collection, please include a completed NRCS seed collection form NRCS-ECS-580:

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/Publications/ecs580.pdf>.

If possible, also include a pressed voucher specimen and photos of the site and individual plants.

Thanks: Cooperation from field offices and other agencies is essential for the PMC to produce the best plant material products possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Derek Tilley or Loren St. John at the PMC - Phone: (208) 397-4133 or to Dan Ogle at the Idaho state office – Phone: (208) 685-6987.

Seed should be sent to the PMC at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.
Aberdeen, ID 83210

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