

Coffee Point, Idaho Off-Center Advanced Test Site - First Year Evaluation
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The purpose of the Coffee Point Off-Center Advanced Test Site located approximately 25 miles northwest of Aberdeen is to evaluate and demonstrate the potential of grasses for revegetation and forage for livestock and wildlife in areas of 8-10 inch annual precipitation in southeastern Idaho. The site is located in the Coffee Point Enclosure on land administered by the USDI - Bureau of Land Management. The enclosure has been used by the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center for testing purposes since 1982. The test site is a loamy range site with moderately deep, loamy soil and scattered pockets of exposed bedrock.

The off-center advanced test site is composed of an inter-center strain trial to test performance of grasses and a display nursery. The inter-center strain trial includes a block of 26 grass accessions arranged in a complete randomized block design with 4 replications. The display nursery includes 47 accessions of grasses, forbs, and shrubs to allow landusers to view examples of released cultivars and promising accessions that are adapted to the general area.

The off-center advanced test site was seeded in early November 1994. Total precipitation from October 1994 to September 1995 was 7.99 inches, but due to the very favorable timing of precipitation from just prior to seeding and during the spring of 1995, a majority of the plots have established.

Two evaluations were conducted during the year of establishment, once in May and again in September. Plant height, percent stand, plant density and vigor data were collected, but because of heavy annual weed growth, we mowed the site in early August and did not evaluate plant height in September. The following table summarizes the evaluation data collected in September (with the exception of plant height which is shown from the May evaluation) for the top twelve performing grasses ranked by percent stand:

	Plant Ht. (cm)	Percent Stand	Plant Density (per ft ²)	Vigor*
Hycrest crested wheatgrass	12.8	88.5	5.0	2.8
Vavilov Siberian wheatgrass	12.8	78.3	5.5	3.3
Sodar streambank wheatgrass	8.5	72.3	5.0	3.0
Syn A Russian wildrye	11.0	69.8	3.3	2.3
Critana thickspike wheatgrass	8.5	68.3	3.5	2.5
Nordan crested wheatgrass	12.0	62.0	4.5	3.5
Bannock thickspike wheatgrass	10.3	64.8	5.5	2.8
Mankota Russian wildrye	10.3	63.5	2.8	2.5
Ephraim crested wheatgrass	9.5	60.3	4.5	3.8
PI-275459 Siberian wheatgrass	11.5	59.3	4.5	3.5
P-27 Siberian wheatgrass	11.0	52.0	3.3	3.8
Bozoisky Russian wildrye	9.5	51.5	3.3	2.5

* Vigor rated 1-9 with 1 best, 9 worst

The Plant Materials Center will begin collecting forage production data in 1996 and continue to evaluate the site for 4 more years. A progress report is available which describes the site and our activities. It may be obtained from the Plant Materials Center or Dan Ogle, Plant Materials Specialist, Boise, Idaho.

Submitted to Idaho, Utah, and Nevada NRCS State Offices for inclusion in "Current Developments" February 5, 1996 and to National Plant Materials Newsletter September 12, 1996

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