

Curlew ICST - 1996 Forage Production Summary
Loren St. John, Acting Manager

The Curlew Inter-Center Strain Trial (ICST) located on the Curlew National Grasslands southwest of Pocatello, Idaho was planted in November, 1992. The purpose of the ICST is to evaluate grasses for livestock and wildlife forage on sagebrush-grass range sites in southeast Idaho and northern Utah. This planting is in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Oneida Soil Conservation District, and the Bureau of Land Management. The test site is located on a loamy range site in a 12-16 inch precipitation zone.

The ICST includes replicated plots of 13 intermediate and 7 thickspike wheatgrass accessions, and 6 alfalfa varieties. A display nursery includes 91 accessions of grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

Precipitation was near normal during 1996, estimated to be 12 to 14 inches. Precipitation during 1995 was approximately 16 inches and precipitation during 1994 was approximately 6 inches. On July 31, 1996 we evaluated the replicated plots in the ICST for plant density, vigor, plant height, and forage production. This is a summary of the forage production data in comparison to data from 1994 and 1995:

Accession	1994 Forage Production	1995 Forage Production	1996 Forage Production
	(pounds per acre)		
Intermediate Wheatgrass (<i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>)			
Slate	583 a	1425 a	1292 a
Manska	629 a	1351 a	1292 a
Rush	592 a	1148 ab	1041 ab
Luna	324 ab	1203 ab	975 abc
Greenleaf	278 b	546 abc	920 abc
Reliant	629 a	1129 abc	715 abc
Mandan	241 b	824 abc	697 abc
Topar	102 b	306 bc	548 bc
Tegmar	84 b	315 bc	483 bc
AI Hybrid	176 b	231 c	418 bc
Greenar	139 b	352 bc	409 bc
Oahe	342 ab	453 bc	335 c
Amur	0	0	0
Thickspike Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i>)			
Critana	157	861 a	260
Bannock	185	333 b	251
Schwendimar	130	389 ab	167
SL Hybrid	148	343 b	153
PI-236664	102	241 b	130
Sodar	93	194 b	84
PI-236663	157	120 b	65

One-way analysis of variance and means separation tests were performed separately on the forage production data each year from the intermediate wheatgrass and thickspike wheatgrass accessions. Forage production data followed by the same letter are not significantly different. There were no significant differences among the thickspike accessions during 1994 and 1996. Because the alfalfa accessions have performed rather poorly, their data is not presented.

We plan to evaluate the ICST for one more growing season. After the next growing season the Plant Materials Center will prepare a final report summarizing five years of evaluation data. For more details on the ICST, please contact Loren St. John. A progress report is available which describes the site and our activities may also be obtained from the PMC or Dan Ogle, Plant Materials Specialist in Boise, Idaho.

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