

TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

TN-PLANT MATERIALS-73

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Tulelake Inter-Center Strain Trial

The Tulelake (ICST) Inter-Center Strain Trial was established to determine the best conservation plant materials to use in conservation practices funded by Farm Bill programs in the Tulelake area (MLRA 21). Forty two grasses, shrubs and legumes were established in the spring of 2002 and evaluated for stand establishment, height, seed amount, seed fill, vigor, weed suppression, lodging, cold/frost damage and wildlife value. The site was irrigated and weed control was provided. An additional ICST site was planted in Dorris in the fall of 2002 and this site was not irrigated.

When supplemental irrigation water is applied for initial stand establishment there is an overall excellent stand establishment. The varieties which had excellent results over three years are: Largo Tall Wheatgrass, San Luis Slender Wheatgrass, Magnar Basin Wildrye, Hycrest Crested Wheatgrass, Reliant Intermediate Wheatgrass and CDII Crested Wheatgrass.

When supplemental irrigation water is not applied there is very poor stand establishment. At the Dorris planting site only Tusas Bottlebrush Squirrel Tail and Jose Tall Wheatgrass produced a small stands consisting of ten percent cover and a height of 24".

The shrubs did not have great success when direct seeded; however, when planted as seedlings Lassen Bitterbrush, Great Basin Fourwing Saltbush and Great Basin Big Sagebrush did excellent and had one to two feet of growth the first year. The use of landscape fabric, fertilizer tablets and rodent guards ensured success.

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