



PLANT MATERIALS TECH NOTE

Current Nomenclature of Plant Species Used in Conservation Activities in Montana and Wyoming

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Introduction: The following information provides current nomenclature for numerous plant species used in conservation practices in Montana and Wyoming. Accepted common names, current scientific names, as well as previous scientific names are provided. In some cases, multiple varieties (*var.*) or subspecies (*ssp.*) exist that may or may not be included. All previous scientific names are not listed. Updated scientific names may reflect taxonomic revisions, the identification of new species, spelling changes, or other factors. Verification of nomenclature has been made through the USDA-NRCS Plant List of Accepted Nomenclature, Taxonomy, and Symbols (PLANTS). It is recommended that verification of plant names be made periodically by accessing PLANTS on-line at <http://plants.usda.gov>.

TABLE 1. Grass and Grass-like Species.

COMMON NAME	CURRENT SCIENTIFIC NAME	PREVIOUS SCIENTIFIC NAME
Indian ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
Nelson's needlegrass (invalid) ¹	NOT APPLICABLE	<i>Stipa nelsonii</i> <i>Stipa nelsonii</i> ssp. <i>nelsonii</i>
Dore's needlegrass	<i>Achnatherum nelsonii</i> ssp. <i>dorei</i>	<i>Stipa columbiana</i> <i>Stipa nelsonii</i> ssp. <i>dorei</i> <i>Stipa nelsonii</i> var. <i>dorei</i> <i>Stipa occidentalis</i> var. <i>minor</i>
Columbia needlegrass	<i>Achnatherum nelsonii</i> ssp. <i>nelsonii</i>	<i>Stipa columbiana</i> var. <i>nelsonii</i> <i>Stipa nelsonii</i> <i>Stipa occidentalis</i> var. <i>nelsonii</i>
western needlegrass	<i>Achnatherum occidentale</i>	<i>Stipa occidentalis</i>
Richardson's needlegrass	<i>Achnatherum richardsonii</i>	<i>Stipa richardsonii</i>
Siberian wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron fragile</i>	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i> ssp. <i>fragile</i> <i>Agropyron cristatum</i> var. <i>fragile</i> <i>Agropyron fragile</i> ssp. <i>sibiricum</i> <i>Agropyron fragile</i> var. <i>sibiricum</i> <i>Agropyron sibiricum</i>
redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	<i>Agrostis alba</i>
tufted hairgrass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>
Montana wheatgrass	<i>Elymus albicans</i>	<i>Elymus albicans</i> var. <i>griffithii</i> <i>Elytrigia dasystachya</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> <i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i>
bearded wheatgrass	<i>Elymus caninus</i>	<i>Agropyron caninum</i>
bottlebrush squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	<i>Sitanion hystrix</i>
thickspike wheatgrass ²	SEE STREAMBANK WHEATGRASS	

TABLE 1. Grass and Grass-like Species CONTINUED.

COMMON NAME	CURRENT SCIENTIFIC NAME	PREVIOUS SCIENTIFIC NAME
streambank wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> ssp. <i>lanceolatus</i>	<i>Agropyron dasystachyum</i> <i>Agropyron dasystachyum</i> var. <i>riparum</i> <i>Agropyron elmeri</i> <i>Agropyron riparium</i> <i>Agropyron riparium</i> <i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> var. <i>riparius</i> <i>Elytrigia dasystachya</i>
slender wheatgrass	<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i> ssp. <i>trachycaulus</i>	<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>
rough fescue	<i>Festuca campestris</i>	<i>Festuca scabrella</i>
hard fescue	<i>Festuca trachyphylla</i>	<i>Festuca duriuscula</i> <i>Festuca longifolia</i> <i>Festuca ovina</i> var. <i>duriuscula</i>
needle and thread	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	<i>Stipa comata</i>
prairie Junegrass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>
Altai wildrye	<i>Leymus angustus</i>	<i>Elymus angustus</i>
basin wildrye	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	<i>Elymus cinereus</i>
mammoth wildrye	<i>Leymus racemosus</i>	<i>Elymus giganteus</i>
beardless wildrye	<i>Leymus triticoides</i>	<i>Elymus triticoides</i>
tall fescue	<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>
Hitchcock's smooth woodrush	<i>Luzula glabrata</i> var. <i>hitchcockii</i>	<i>Luzula hitchcockii</i>
green needlegrass	<i>Nassella viridula</i>	<i>Stipa viridula</i>
western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>
inland bluegrass	<i>Poa nemoralis</i> ssp. <i>interior</i>	<i>Poa interior</i>
Sandberg bluegrass	<i>Poa secunda</i>	<i>Poa ampla</i> (big bluegrass) <i>Poa canbyi</i> (Canby bluegrass) <i>Poa gracillima</i> (Pacific bluegrass) <i>Poa juncifolia</i> (alkali bluegrass) <i>Poa nevadensis</i> (Nevada bluegrass) <i>Poa sandbergii</i> (Sandberg bluegrass)
Russian wildrye	<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>	<i>Elymus junceus</i>
bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	<i>Agropyron spicatum</i> <i>Elymus spicata</i>
beardless wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ssp. <i>inermis</i>	<i>Agropyron inerme</i> <i>Agropyron spicatum</i> var. <i>inerme</i>
little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>
tall wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum ponticum</i>	<i>Agropyron elongatum</i> <i>Elymus elongatus</i> <i>Elytrigia elongata</i>
pubescent wheatgrass (invalid)	SEE INTERMEDIATE WHEATGRASS	
intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum intermedium</i>	<i>Agropyron intermedium</i> <i>Agropyron trichophorum</i> <i>Elymus hispidus</i> <i>Elytrigia intermedia</i>
Rocky Mountain trisetum	<i>Trisetum montanum</i> var. <i>montanum</i>	<i>Trisetum spicatum</i> ssp. <i>montanum</i>
mountain hairgrass	<i>Vahlodea atropurpurea</i>	<i>Deschampsia atropurpurea</i>

¹ The common name Nelson's needlegrass is no longer valid. Species previously called Nelson's needlegrass are now grouped with either Dore's needlegrass or Columbia needlegrass.

² The common name "thickspike wheatgrass" no longer applies to the cultivar 'Critana', which is now aligned under streambank wheatgrass. The current common name "thickspike wheatgrass" is assigned to *Elymus macrourus* (formerly *Agropyron dasystachyum* var. *serceum*; *Agropyron macrourum*; *Triticum macrourum*), a native to Alaska.

TABLE 2. Forb (WILDFLOWER) Species.

COMMON NAME	CURRENT SCIENTIFIC NAME	PREVIOUS SCIENTIFIC NAME
western yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>	<i>Achillea lanulosa</i>
silverweed cinquefoil	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
thymeleaf sandmat	<i>Chamaesyce serpyllifolia</i> ssp. <i>serpyllifolia</i>	<i>Euphorbia serpyllifolia</i>
fireweed	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>
slender white prairieclover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	<i>Petalostemon candidus</i>
purple prairieclover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	<i>Petalostemon purpureus</i>
pimpernel willowherb	<i>Epilobium anagallidifolium</i>	<i>Epilobium alpinum</i>
Engelmann's aster	<i>Eucephalus engelmannii</i>	<i>Aster engelmannii</i>
eastern showy aster	<i>Eurybia conspicua</i>	<i>Aster conspicuus</i>
thickstem aster	<i>Eurybia integrifolia</i>	<i>Aster integrifolius</i>
subalpine aster	<i>Eurybia merita</i>	<i>Aster sibiricus</i> var. <i>meritus</i> (AND OTHER VARIETIES)
arctic aster	<i>Eurybia sibirica</i>	<i>Aster sibiricus</i>
western sweetvetch	<i>Hedysarum occidentale</i> var. <i>occidentale</i>	<i>Hedysarum uintahense</i>
stiff sunflower	<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i> ssp. <i>pauciflorus</i>	<i>Helianthus rigidus</i>
showy goldeneye	<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i> var. <i>multiflora</i>	<i>Viguiera multiflora</i>
common cowparsnip	<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>
hairy false goldenaster	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i> var. <i>villosa</i>	<i>Chrysopsis villosa</i>
starry false lily of the valley	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>
twinflower sandwort	<i>Minuartia obtusiloba</i>	<i>Arenaria obtusiloba</i>
sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	<i>Onobrychis viciaefolia</i>
dwarf arctic ragwort	<i>Packera cymbalaria</i>	<i>Senecio cymbalaria</i>
white pasqueflower	<i>Pulsatilla occidentalis</i>	<i>Anemone occidentalis</i>
cutleaf anemone	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i> ssp. <i>multifida</i>	<i>Anemone multifida</i>
salebrosa goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i> var. <i>salebrosa</i>	<i>Solidago elongata</i>
Pacific aster	<i>Symphotrichum chilense</i> (varieties)	<i>Aster chilensis</i>
smooth blue aster	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	<i>Aster laevis</i>
western mountain aster	<i>Symphotrichum spathulatum</i> var. <i>spathulatum</i>	<i>Aster occidentalis</i>

TABLE 3. Tree and Shrub Species.

COMMON NAME	CURRENT SCIENTIFIC NAME	PREVIOUS SCIENTIFIC NAME
redosier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i> ssp. <i>sericea</i>	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
whitestem goldenbush	<i>Ericameria discoidea</i>	<i>Haplopappus macronema</i>
rubber rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>
stretchberry	<i>Forestiera pubescens</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	<i>Forestiera neomexicana</i>
winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	<i>Ceratoides lanata</i> <i>Eurotia lanata</i>
Oregongrape	<i>Mahonia repens</i>	<i>Berberis repens</i>
shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Dasiphora floribunda</i>	<i>Pentaphylloides floribunda</i> <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>
plains cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i> ssp. <i>monilifera</i>	<i>Populus deltoides</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i> <i>Populus monilifera</i> <i>Populus occidentalis</i> <i>Populus sargentii</i>
western sandcherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i> var. <i>besseyi</i>	<i>Prunus besseyi</i>
thinleaf huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium membranaceum</i>	<i>Vaccinium globulare</i>

References:

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