

Fact Sheet

'BANNOCK' THICKSPIKE WHEATGRASS

Species: *Elymus lanceolatus*
ssp. lanceolatus
 Common Name: Thickspike
 Wheatgrass
 Plant Symbol: ELLAL
 Accession Number: 9021076

Source: Bannock is a composite of 6 seed collections of thickspike wheatgrass from Pocatello, Idaho; The Dalles, Oregon; and Quincy, Washington that were collected prior to 1948. Specific collection site information is not available.

Native Site Information: Thickspike wheatgrass is native to the western United States and is adapted to areas where annual precipitation averages 8 inches or more.

Method of Selection: The original seed collections were planted in 1948. In the late 1950's, six individual plants that were more vigorous and productive were selected, increased under isolation and seed bulked. The first generation seed was planted at Teton, Idaho and seed from Teton was planted at Knoll Creek, Nevada. Seed from Knoll Creek was then brought back to the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center for seed increase. Bannock has been compared to other thickspike wheatgrass cultivars at sites throughout the western United States and is taller, leafier and more productive.

Description: Bannock is a long-lived, leafy, cool season perennial grass. It is moderately rhizomatous, with good sod-producing qualities. The stems are erect, 15 to 24 inches tall (up to 40 inches irrigated). The



**'Bannock' Thickspike
Wheatgrass**

leaves,
stems,

and seedheads have little or no pubescence. Leaves are abundant with a pale green to bluish cast. Seedheads often turn reddish at maturity. There are no awns.

Anticipated Use: The potential uses of Bannock thickspike wheatgrass are as a component of a seed mix for rangeland, erosion control, forage and cover seedings in 8 to 16 inch rainfall zones; mine spoil reclamation; critical area stabilization where a sod-forming perennial is needed; filter strips

to trap sediment; competition with aggressive annuals such as cheatgrass and medusahead because of its ability to establish sod.

Insect and Disease Problems: No highly detrimental disease symptoms or insect problems have been observed in plantings of Bannock.

Environmental Considerations: This variety release is from a species native to the Intermountain West and has no known negative impacts on wild or domestic animals. Bannock is not considered a weedy or invasive species but can spread to adjoining vegetative communities under ideal environmental conditions.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Bannock is adapted to the Northwest and Intermountain regions of the United States where annual precipitation averages above 8 inches. It may be adapted to the northern Great Plains.

Potential Soil Adaptation: Bannock prefers moderately deep, loamy to silt loam soils, but can grow on sandy and clayey soils.

Planting and Harvesting: Bannock should be seeded with a drill to a depth of 1/4 to 1/2 inches on a firm, weed-free seedbed. The full seeding rate is 8 pounds Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre. When used as a component of a seed mix, adjust to the percent of mix desired. For seed production, Bannock should be seeded in 36 inch rows to allow mechanical weed control and to maintain rows. Bannock may be seeded during the spring, late summer, or fall (dormant).

Harvesting seed is best accomplished by swathing, followed by combining of the cured windrows. The seed readily shatters, requiring close scrutiny of maturing stands. Seed is generally harvested in mid-July to mid-August. Seed yields range from 100 pounds per acre (dryland) to 400 pounds per acre (irrigated).

Seed Maintenance: Breeder and Foundation seed is maintained at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.; Aberdeen, ID 83210
Phone: (208) 397-4133

Foundation seed is available through the Idaho Crop Improvement Association and Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho, Utah and Nevada. Certification of seed shall be limited to not more than two generations from Foundation seed. Variety protection has been granted under the Plant Variety Protection Act of 1970. Conditions of this license specify that Bannock seed can be marketed only as a class of certified seed.

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