

Inspect for spider mite infestations in spring. Droughty looking spots where plants lack vigor may indicate mite infestations. To see the tiny mites, place a white card under the plant, then slap the foliage briskly. If mites are present, they will fall on the card.

Harvest seed when most of the heads are in the hard-dough stage, or when about half the seeds fall out if you whip the seed heads sharply against the palm of your hand. To check for natural shattering, hold a bundle of seed heads together and look down at the bundle from the top. If the seed have dropped, the seed heads look hollow. You can combine the seed, but spread the seed material thin enough to insure drying without heating. At medium elevation, seed will ripen in late August, two to three weeks earlier than Largo. The aftermath left in the field from combining has considerable feed value, and it may be baled or grazed in the field.

This variety, like other wheatgrasses, is cross-pollinated and must have adequate isolation for certified seed production.

#### SEED SUPPLY

Limited amounts of foundation seed of Jose Tall wheatgrass are available, without charge, to recognized seed growers for certified seed production through Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Plant Materials Center, Middle Rio Grande Branch Station, at Los Lunas maintains a foundation seed block for this purpose.

Published and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, by the Cooperative Extension Service of New Mexico State University, Philip J. Leyendecker, director, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

## Jose TALL WHEATGRASS



- PALATABLE
- HIGH PROTEIN AND LOW FIBER
- EXCELLENT FORAGE PRODUCTION
- EXCELLENT IRRIGATED PASTURE AND HAY
- ADAPTED TO WIDE RANGE OF SOILS
- ADAPTED TO MODERATELY ADVERSE SOIL CONDITIONS
- FOUNDATION SEED AVAILABLE TO GROWERS



Cooperative Extension Service  
New Mexico State University

## JOSE TALL WHEATGRASS

Jose, a new variety of tall wheatgrass, *Agropyron elongatum* (Host) Beauv., has been released by the Agricultural Experiment Station of New Mexico State University and the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The new variety originated from a 1945 introduction from Europe via Australia.

### DESCRIPTION

Jose is a perennial, long-lived, cool-season bunchgrass with a uniform growth habit. The clumps average four feet tall. The basal leaves are abundant, 22 to 24 inches long, semi-lax, and dark bluish-green.

### AREAS OF ADAPTATION

Jose tall wheatgrass produces pasture and hay in irrigated areas of New Mexico and Colorado at any elevations up to 7,500 feet. It grows well in soils of all textures—from fine to coarse. This grass can be grown on soils with a water table within two feet of the surface. It also performs well on saline or alkaline soils where other grasses or crops do not grow satisfactorily.

Jose requires at least 120 frost-free days for seed production—a slightly longer growing season than the variety requires for hay or pasture.

### SEED PRODUCTION

In eight years, Jose produced an average of 346 pounds of seed per acre at the Plant Materials Center, Middle Rio Grande Branch Station, Los Lunas, with an average purity of 93 percent and an average germination of 84 percent. In western Colorado, Jose has produced as much as 900 pounds per acre of high-quality seed.

Jose tall wheatgrass produces an abundance of forage. At Los Lunas, where the growing season averages 177 frost-free days, hay yields averaged 5½ tons of high-quality hay per acre, when the crop was irrigated and fertilized and cut two or three times a season to a stubble height of six inches. Jose forage samples clipped to a 10-inch height averaged 18.6 percent crude protein and 23.7 percent crude fiber. Largo tall wheatgrass forage samples averaged 15.1 percent crude protein and 28 percent crude fiber.

In irrigated pasture trials near Los Lunas cattle preferred Jose to Largo. This same preference by cattle has also been shown at other locations in New Mexico and Colorado.

Jose responds well to nitrogen fertilizer. Phosphorus may be applied if soil tests indicate a deficiency.

### DISEASES AND INSECTS

Jose has not been affected by disease in the Los Lunas area. Red spider mites infested some plots in the spring, but these were effectively controlled with dusting sulfur or other miticides.

### TIPS ON SEED PRODUCTION

Plant in rows for easy cultivation and irrigation. Space the rows from 32 to 42 inches to accommodate conventional equipment.

Seed at the rate of 8 to 10 pounds of pure live seed per acre.

In most irrigated districts of Colorado and New Mexico, seed in the late summer.

Plant shallow, not deeper than ¾ inch, and irrigate up.

Apply nitrogen fertilizer on established stands, usually with the first irrigation in early spring, at rates of 80 to 120 pounds of available nitrogen per acre. If the soil is extremely dry, apply the fertilizer at time of second irrigation. Apply phosphorus as indicated by soil tests.