

'Volga' MAMMOTH WILDRYE

Scientific Name: *Leymus racemosus*
Common Name: Mammoth wildrye
Cultivar Name: 'Volga' (PI 108491)
Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1949

ORIGIN: 'Volga' was originally developed for control of inland sand dunes in the Pacific Northwest by vegetative propagation with culms. Vegetative material was released by the SCS Pullman Plant Material Center in 1949. .

DESCRIPTION: 'Volga' wildrye plants are tall and have sparse, stout, erect culms to 40 inches tall; numerous, coarse, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, pale green, stiff, nonpalatable leaves; heavy, short rhizomes; dense, cylindrical spikes that are 1 inch in diameter at the base of taper to a point at 10-15 inches; seeds with sharp pointed glumes; seeds that germinate readily.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: No significant problems have been noted.

SEED PRODUCTION: 'Volga' seed yields at the Pullman PMC were reported at 300 pounds per acre. The average seed yields at the Meeker Environmental Plant Center from 1982-1985 have been 361 pounds per acre.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: A good stand is established by direct seeding on sandy soils. Stands have been established on Uranium tailings at 6675 feet elevation with an average 9 inches of annual precipitation. 'Volga' has shown a wide area of adaptation but more importantly has the ability to establish from seed.

CONSERVATION USES: Vegetation control of inland sand dunes in the Pacific Northwest, mined land reclamation, wildlife habitat and soil stabilization on irrigation pivot corners.

AVAILABILITY: For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.