

Plants for Solving Resource Problems

'TEGMAR' DWARF INTERMEDIATE WHEATGRASS

Species: *Thinopyrum intermedium*

Common Name: Intermediate
Wheatgrass

Plant Symbol: THIN6

Accession Number: PI-109219

Source: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center at Pullman, Washington received the original seed from the Westover-Enlow expedition in 1934. It was collected near Bolu, Turkey.

Native Site Information: This species is native to Eurasia and has been cultivated there and in the United States for many years.

Method of Selection: Tegmar was selected for dwarf size, vigorous sod forming characteristics, fine stems and narrow leaves at the Pullman, WA PMC. Extensive field testing through field plantings at farms in eastern Idaho and at University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Stations were conducted. It was released in 1968 by the Aberdeen, ID Plant Materials Center and the University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station.

Description: Tegmar is a long-lived, late maturing, cool-season, perennial grass. It forms a dense sod and the numerous leaves are light green to blue green and mostly smooth. Stems are fine, mostly smooth and erect. Tegmar is a dwarf strain of intermediate wheatgrass and is typically about one-half the height of other intermediate wheatgrass varieties.



**'Tegmar' Dwarf Intermediate
Wheatgrass**

Use: Tegmar is best suited for erosion control because of its strong seedling vigor, rapid sodding ability, late maturity, and short, dense growth. Although it produces quality forage, it is less productive than the taller and more robust varieties of intermediate and pubescent wheatgrass. Tegmar is adapted to areas receiving 13 inches or more annual precipitation.

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

Environmental Considerations: This release is from a species that was introduced to the United States in the early 1900's. Tegmar represents an incremental improvement in performance within a well documented species. Tegmar spreads slowly vegetatively and very little via seed distribution. It is not considered a weedy or invasive species but can spread into adjoining vegetative communities under ideal environmental conditions. There are no known negative impacts on wild or domestic animals.

Area of Adaptation: Tegmar is adapted to the Northwest and Intermountain West regions of the United States where annual precipitation is 13 inches or more. It may be adapted to the mountains of the Southwest, the Western and Northern Great Plains and the Southern Canadian Plains.

Soil Adaptation: Tegmar is well adapted to moderately deep, loamy to silt loam soils but also grows on sandy and clayey soils.

Planting and Harvesting: Tegmar should be seeded with a drill 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep on a firm, weed-free seedbed. The full seeding rate is 10 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, Tegmar should be seeded in 36 inch rows at a seeding rate of 4.9 pounds PLS per acre to allow mechanical weed control and to maintain rows. Tegmar 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 in mid-to-late August. Seeds will readily shatter when mature and

if direct combining is desired, close scrutiny of maturing stands is required. Seed yields range from 250 pounds per acre (dryland) to 500 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 University of Idaho Foundation Seed Program, Utah 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.

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