

Coffee Point, Idaho Off-Center Advanced Test Site - Second Year Evaluation  
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The purpose of the Coffee Point Off-Center Advanced Test Site located approximately 25 miles northwest of Aberdeen is to evaluate and demonstrate the potential of grasses for revegetation and forage for livestock and wildlife in areas of 8-10 inch annual precipitation in southeastern Idaho. The site is located in the Coffee Point Enclosure on land administered by the USDI - Bureau of Land Management. The enclosure has been used by the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center for testing purposes since 1982. The test site is a loamy range site with moderately deep, loamy soil and scattered pockets of exposed bedrock.

The off-center advanced test site which was seeded in early November, 1994 is composed of an inter-center strain trial to test performance of grasses and a display nursery. The inter-center strain trial includes a block of 26 grass accessions arranged in a complete randomized block design with 4 replications. The display nursery includes 47 accessions of grasses, forbs, and shrubs to allow landusers to view examples of released cultivars and promising accessions that are adapted to the general area.

Total precipitation from October 1995 to September 1996 was 5.35 inches. The previous year, 7.99 inches of precipitation was received at the site.

Two evaluations were conducted during 1996, once in May and again in July. Plant height, percent stand, plant density and vigor data were collected in May and in July we collected plant height, vigor and forage production data. The following table summarizes evaluation data collected during 1996 for the top twelve performing grasses ranked by forage production:

	<u>Plant Ht.</u> (cm)	<u>Percent Stand</u>	<u>Plant Density</u> (per ft <sup>2</sup> )	<u>Forage Prod.</u> (lbs. per acre)
Hycrest crested wheatgrass	37.0	82.8	4.3	957
Vavilov Siberian wheatgrass	29.3	79.5	4.8	836
PI-275459 Siberian wheatgrass	31.8	71.3	3.8	808
Nordan crested wheatgrass	36.3	72.8	4.5	781
P-27 Siberian wheatgrass	35.8	67.8	3.8	669
Ephraim crested wheatgrass	31.8	77.3	4.8	650
Bannock thickspike wheatgrass	33.3	61.0	5.0	613
Douglas crested wheatgrass	28.0	74.0	4.3	557
Sodar streambank wheatgrass	27.5	71.3	4.8	511
Critana thickspike wheatgrass	23.0	66.8	3.8	446
SL-hybrid wheatgrass	29.3	56.8	3.3	344
Syn A Russian wildrye	24.5	79.5	2.8	321
Schwendimar thickspike	28.3	35.8	3.5	307
Mankota Russian wildrye	23.8	71.0	3.3	265
Bozoisky Russian wildrye	23.8	64.5	2.8	242

Unfortunately, the site was burned by wildfire in late August. However, it will be quite interesting to observe how the plants respond. The Plant Materials Center will continue to evaluate the site annually for 3 more years. A progress report is available which describes the site and our activities. It may be obtained from the Plant Materials Center or Dan Ogle, Plant Materials Specialist, Boise, Idaho.

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