



# Icy Blue Germplasm

## Canada wildrye

*Elymus canadensis* L.



*Icy Blue Germplasm Canada Wildrye Seed Production Field*

Icy Blue Germplasm Canada wildrye was released as a tested-class ecotype in 2004 by the USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC), the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

### Description

Icy Blue Germplasm is a native perennial bunchgrass that grows to four feet tall with erect or arching culms and flat, wide pointed leaves that grow from the base of the stems to the spike. As a cool season grass, rapid growth occurs early in the growing season, and slows during the mid-summer months. Active growth resumes in the fall and continues through the first frost. Icy Blue Germplasm has a whitish, waxy bloom, giving it a distinctive 'icy blue' color on the leaf surface and stems. Auricles are claw-like and clasping, arising from a broad, yellowish, or light green collar. The thick and bristly spikelets can reach ten inches in length, and are often two or three to a node. Awns grow to two inches and are usually outwardly twisted.

### Source

This collection came from LaPorte County, Indiana.

### Conservation Uses

Icy Blue Germplasm is intended for use in prairie restoration, erosion control, and wildlife habitat enhancement. Michigan NRCS technical specialists have determined that Icy Blue Germplasm is useful or potentially useful with these Conservation Practice Standards:

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C)
- Early Successional Habitat
- Development/Management (647)
- Field Border (386)
- Forest Trails and Landings (655)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
- Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643)
- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

### Area of Adaptation and Use

This species' range is throughout the continental United States except the southeastern states. The primary areas of use for Icy Blue Germplasm are the Great Lakes and Midwest regions which are within the species' range. Canada wildrye grows well on soils found on sandy shores and dunes, wooded areas, and other disturbed sites throughout much of North America.

### Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Icy Blue Germplasm can be established from seed. Weed control during establishment is critical.

### Ecological Considerations

No economically important insects or diseases have been observed in Icy Blue Germplasm.



*Combine-Ripe Field of Icy Blue Germplasm Canada Wildrye*

### **Seed and Plant Production**

Icy Blue Germplasm is a short-lived perennial with seed-production fields seldom remaining active more than five years. Deebarding is necessary for handling and drilling seed.

### **Availability**

Icy Blue Germplasm Canada wildrye, as well as other Rose Lake PMC releases, is available from commercial suppliers. Rose Lake PMC does not sell releases to the general public, although small quantities of seed are available to commercial seed or nursery growers for increase purposes.



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### **Citation**

Release Brochure for Icy Blue Germplasm Canada Wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*). USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI 48823. Published March 2003, Revised April 2014.

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>

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