

'Durar' HARD FESCUE

Scientific Name: *Festuca trachyphylla*

Common Name: Hard fescue

Cultivar Name: 'Durar'

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

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

Release Date: 1949

ORIGIN: 'Durar' was collected from an old planting on the Eastern Oregon Livestock Experiment Station at Union in 1934. Developed by reselection at the SCS Plant Materials Center, Pullman, WA.

DESCRIPTION: 'Durar' is medium tall, semi-erect, long-lived, densely tufted bunchgrass. It is a large form of sheep fescue and closely related to Chewings fescue. It has broader, longer, coarser, more lax leaves than sheep fescue. It is more drought tolerant than Chewings fescue but not as hardy as native Sheep or Idaho fescue. It is a heavy root producer. This plus its abundant dense leaves and low crown make it an excellent erosion control plant.

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

SEED PRODUCTION:

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Plant seeds no more than ½ inch deep. Drill 5-7 pounds of seed per acre. Or broadcast seed at 10 pounds per acre, then harrow or rake in. A well prepared weed-free seed bed is preferred. On steep banks and critical erosive areas, mulch and other erosion-control measures are recommended.

CONSERVATION USES: Primarily good for ground cover and soil protection on roadsides, ditch banks, airports, skid trails, ski slopes, campsites, and burned over forested areas.

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.