



Availability

'San Luis slender wheatgrass was released in 1984. Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center maintains Breeders, Foundation and Certified seed stock. For obtaining seed please contact UCEPC.

For More Information

Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center
5538 RBC #4
Meeker, Colorado 81641
Phone: 970-878-5003
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/copmc/>

or

Your local USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service Office

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San Luis

Slender wheatgrass

Elymus trachycaulus (Link) Gould ex
Shinners



Upper Colorado
Environmental
Plant Center
Meeker, Colorado

Description

'San Luis' slender wheatgrass *Elymus trachycaulus* (Link) Gould ex Shinnery was originally collected in the San Luis Valley, Rio Grande County, Colorado. It is a cultivar release of slender wheatgrass which is a native, cool season perennial bunchgrass. Average heights range from 2 to 2½ feet and it has very short rhizomes. It has outstanding rapid establishment and longevity. Stems are noted as having characteristic reddish to purplish tinges at the base. The inflorescence is a long, spicate raceme ranging from 2 to 12 inches long.



Adaptation

Slender wheatgrass can be found growing at elevations of 4,500 to 12,000 feet. It occurs on moist to dry sites with moderate to high tolerance to alkaline soil conditions, 8.8 pH. It prefers loams and sandy loams in areas receiving at

least 14 inches of annual precipitation. It does not tolerate excessive soil moisture and is shade tolerant. However, slender wheatgrass is not as drought tolerant as crested, thickspike or streambank wheatgrasses and may succumb to drought due to its late maturation.

Uses

'San Luis' was selected for its rapid establishment, good emergence success, and spreading ability by seed and tillers. It is a great soil erosion controller and is very often used in hay and pasture mixes. Wildlife ungulates often utilize the grass as palatable and nutritious forage.

'San Luis' produces high amounts of below ground biomass so it perfect for soil stabilizing. It is most recommended for stabilizing slopes and disturbed sites above 6,000 feet with 14 inches of precipitation. However, it can be used on lower elevation sites that do not have adequate rainfall. 'San Luis' is also recommended for ski slopes, transmission and pipeline corridors, mineland reclamation, and road side seedings.



Planting Methods

Seeding with a conventional drill is not difficult. Drilling depths should be ¼ to ¾ inch. The recommended drill seeding rate is 6 pounds PLS per acre. Seeding rates should be doubled for critical areas or broadcast seedings. New stands may increase in size as a result of vigorous tillering from the roots. 'San Luis' is a fast growing grass which can establish quickly on critical sites.

Management

Slender wheatgrass is best suited in seed mixtures containing slower establishing, longer-lived species for use on mountain and foothill sites. 'San Luis' is only moderately tolerant of grazing and requires good management to maintain existing stands. Because of its rapid establishment, slender is considered a weedy species and should be managed moderately at some sites.