

'SCHWENDIMAR' THICKSPIKE WHEATGRASS

9006633, P-1822

Scientific Name: *Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus*

Common Name: Thickspike Wheatgrass

Cultivar Name: 'Schwendimar'

Selected By: Pullman PMC, SCS, USDA

Release Date: 1994

COLD HARDINESS ZONE: 5a-7a



ORIGIN: 'Schwendimar' thickspike wheatgrass, *Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus*, is a cultivar developed from a seed collection made on wind blown sands along the banks of the Columbia River east of The Dalles, Oregon by the late John Schwendimar in 1934.

DESCRIPTION: Rhizomatous, cool season, perennial grass. Foliage and culms are bluish and glaucous with only partial pubescence on the lemma. Spikes are long and compact with alternating spikelets on the rachis. Roots are fibrous, dense and shallow with a few that extend beyond two feet (0.6m). Similar in appearance to slender wheatgrass and western wheatgrass. It is outcrossed and its' chromosome number is $2n=28$. Thickspike wheatgrass is the most widely distributed native sod-forming grass in the low rainfall areas of the Pacific Northwest. Thickspike wheatgrass is a native grass

that grows naturally on deep to moderately deep sand, sandy loam and loamy sands. It is not well-adapted to long term use on silt loam or heavier soils.

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

SEED PRODUCTION: 'Schwendimar' is propagated from seed. Late fall seeding has been very successful in establishing stands in the in the semiarid regions of Washington. Seeding depth is critical and should not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2cm). Seedlings emerge in the spring and must be protected from weed competition.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Eight to twenty inches of mean annual precipitation. Medium to coarse textured soils which are neither strongly alkaline or acidic. Its' elevation range is 250-5000 feet. 'Schwendimar' has survived and grown well under dryland conditions at Pullman, Lind, Central Ferry, and Mattawa Washington. 'Schwendimar' seed germinates in cool soils and develops rapidly. Rhizome growth may not occur the first growing season. If flowers in June and goes dormant with the onset of summer drought. Little regrowth occurs in the fall with the increased precipitation. Growth resumes early in spring and rhizome development increases.

CONSERVATION USES: 'Schwendimar' is recommended primarily for quick stabilization of coarse textured soils in droughty areas. Secondary uses include pasture grazing following maturation of downy brome and crested wheatgrass and wildlife habitat.

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.