

# 'Whitmar' BEARDLESS WHEATGRASS

**Scientific Name:** *Pseudoroegneria spicata*

**Common Name:** Beardless Wheatgrass

**Cultivar Name:** 'Whitmar' (PI 109812)

**Selected By:** Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

**Release Cooperators:** Washington Idaho and Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

**Release Date:** 1945

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**ORIGIN:** 'Whitmar' was collected from native Palouse prairie grassland climax near Colton, Whitman County, WA by L.A. Mullen in area of 500mm of annual precipitation and elevation of 855 m on Palouse silt-loam.

**DESCRIPTION:** 'Whitmar' is a long-lived, perennial bunchgrass; drought resistant. Intermediate type, with moderately abundant, erect to semi-erect, medium-coarse stems. Leaves abundant, soft, lax, flat basal and cauline. Seeds awnless, but short-awned seeds occur occasionally. Seedling vigor is good. Seed and forage production is high. Good spring and fall recovery and retains feed value and palatability late into summer.

## **DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS:**

**SEED PRODUCTION:** 'Whitmar' seed yields are greatest the second to third production year. The average clean seed yields under 36 inch row spacing at Pullman range from 200 to 300 pounds per acre. Under irrigation yields are of 300-400 pounds or more per acre can be expected. Seed yields have held up well for three seasons under irrigation or under semi-humid conditions in Eastern Washington.

**SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:** 'Whitmar' beardless wheatgrass is used when reseeding rangelands and marginal croplands being converted to rangeland. Good stands are obtained from early spring seedings to summer fallow. Fall seedings with a deep furrow press drill have also been successful on fallow or clean stubble on light textured soils in the 6- to 12-inch rainfall zone. A firm, weed-free seedbed is essential for successful establishment. Use 5 pounds of seed per acre.

**CONSERVATION USES:** Beardless wheatgrass is very important in native rangelands. It provides forage in the summer, fall, and winter for cattle, sheep, and horses. Elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer graze wheatgrasses extensively during winter and spring; antelope use them moderately in spring.

**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](mailto:crowder@wsu.edu).