

Department of
Agriculture

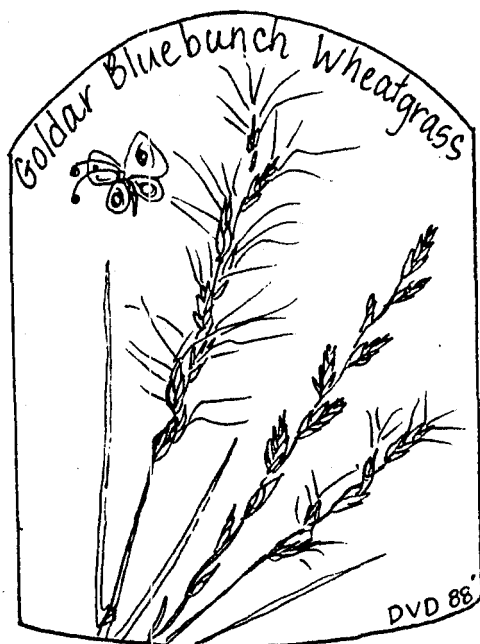
Soil
Conservation
Service

Boise,
Idaho



'Goldar' Bluebunch Wheatgrass Public Release Documentation

"The native, original golden grass of the West"
Pseudoroegneria spicata (Pursh) A. Love, ssp.
spicata (synonyms include *Agropyron spicatum*
(Pursh) Scribn. and J.G. Smith.; *Elytrigia spicata*
(Pursh) D.R. Dewey)



December 1989

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and

IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

and

UTAH AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'GOLDAR' BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Idaho, announce the naming and release of 'Goldar' bluebunch wheatgrass, Pseudoroegneria spicata (Pursh) A. Love, ssp. spicata (synonyms include Apropyron spicatum (Pursh) Scribn. and J.G. Smith; Elytrigia spicata (Pursh) D.R. Dewey).

'Goldar' bluebunch wheatgrass was developed at the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, Idaho. It was originally tested at Aberdeen and Pullman Plant Materials Centers beginning in 1941.

'Goldar' bluebunch wheatgrass is a selection from a native plant collection made on the Umatilla National Forest, Asotin County, Washington, between 968-1460 meters (3175-4792 feet) elevation, in open ponderosa pine woodland, in 1934.

'Goldar' was selected for its superior total yield and basal area, generally superior stand, equal or superior vigor and good potential seed production within the Intermountain area compared to 'Whitmar' beardless wheatgrass, P. spicata ssp. inermis and 'Secar' Snake River wheatgrass, Elymus lanceolatus ssp. wawawaiensis. It is particularly well adapted to areas above 10" of precipitation and greater than 1000 meters (3280 feet) elevation.

'Goldar' is a diploid form of bluebunch wheatgrass, representative of an ecotype of the subspecies spicata that is among the most vigorous within the species, found in northeastern Oregon, southeastern Washington, and northern Idaho. 'Whitmar' is a diploid cultivar of the

botanical subspecies inermis, representative of the awnless, tufted, slenderhabit plants that dominate the Palouse grassland. 'Secar', originally released as a bluebunch wheatgrass, has been found to be allotetraploid and a subspecies of thickspike wheatgrass, Elymus lanceolatus ssp. wawawaiensis, called Snake River wheatgrass.

'Goldar' is a densely tufted bunchgrass with abundant leaves. Seed spikes are typically open and lemma awns strongly divergent at maturity. Under good conditions, herbage production approaches the maximum for the species, yet it has demonstrated excellent drought tolerance and ability to persist on harsh sites. 'Goldar' produces more tillers and some short rhizomes have been observed. It is slightly more cold tolerant than 'Whitmar.' It is equal in performance to 'Whitmar' on grassland sites, and exceeds it on sagebrush-range sites where average winter low temperature is below -34.4 degrees C. (-30 degrees F.), and on open woodland sites. It is not recommended for sites in which the species is not part of the potential native community.

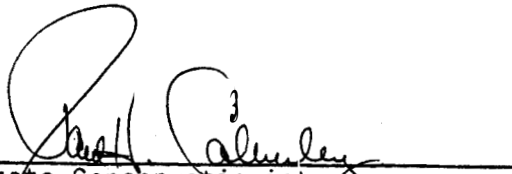
'Goldar' has been compared to more than 1000 accessions of bluebunch wheatgrass at the Aberdeen and Pullman Plant Materials Centers. It has been included in regional nursery trials in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Utah. It has always ranked high in all traits evaluated.

Bluebunch wheatgrass is a perennial cool-season bunchgrass, native throughout the western United States. Its natural distribution ranges from Alaska to northern California and New Mexico. It is abundant in parts of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and eastern Washington and Oregon.

Proposed uses include rangeland seedings, critical area stabilization (usually included as part of a mixture with understory grasses and forbs) for re-establishment of a native plant community, weed control (particularly cheatgrass), Bromus tectorum, vegetation firebreaks, and mine spoil reclamation. 'Goldar' is a good forage producer.

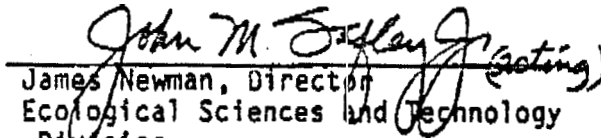
The name 'Goldar' was selected to reflect its golden color when mature. Bluebunch wheatgrass was the original golden grass of the West. 'Goldar' release also celebrates the golden anniversary of the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center.

Breeder seed of 'Goldar' will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, Idaho. Foundation seed will be produced by the Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, Idaho and will be available in 1989 through the University of Idaho and Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho, Utah and Nevada. Certified seed will be available in 1991.



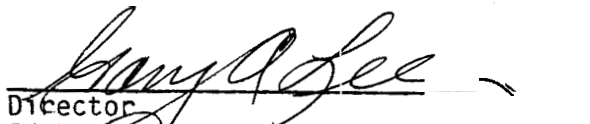
State Conservationist
NRSA - Soil Conservation Service
Boise, Idaho

12-11-89
Date

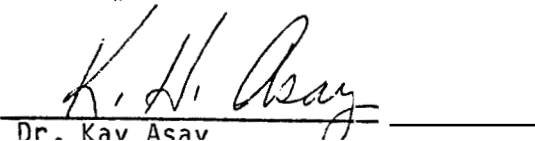


James Newman, Director
Ecological Sciences and Technology
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12/5/89
Date


Director
Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station
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12-15-89
Date



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11/28/89
Date



Dr. Paul Rasmussen
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Nov 30, 1989
Date