

'SECAR' BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS

Scientific Name: *Pseudoregneria spicata* (Pursh) A. Love ssp. *spicata*

Common Name: Bluebunch Wheatgrass

Cultivar Name: 'Secar' (440921)

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Research Center, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1980



ORIGIN: 'Secar' is a bluebunch wheatgrass selection from a native plant collection made on the Lewiston Grade near Lewiston, Idaho. The name was selected to reflect drought tolerance; *Seca* in Spanish means dry.

DESCRIPTION: 'Secar' is a densely tufted bunchgrass (24-40 inches tall) with abundant, narrow leaves, numerous fine stems, small seeds, and divergent awns. It is early maturing, drought tolerant, and persistent under adverse conditions. It is a low-elevation, dryland ecotype.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: 'Secar' is susceptible to stripe rust and mildew, but the degree of susceptibility seems no greater than in other strains. It has no known disease problem.

SEED PRODUCTION: 'Secar' seed production is adapted to a wide area. It does best with at least 14 inches of rainfall and at elevations below 3500 ft. It may be grown on dryland or under irrigation. In some areas early spring frost can be detrimental to seed production because 'Secar' heads rather early. Field isolation is needed to prevent cross-pollination from other bluebunch wheatgrass strains. Seed must be deawned in the cleaning process.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: 'Secar' may be seeded either spring or fall. As a rule, fall seedings do best under 16 inches of annual rainfall. Seed not over 1/2 inch deep on a firm clod-free seedbed. It is recommended all plantings be made on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) basis.

CONSERVATION USES: 'Secar' can be used for the following purposes; rangeland seedings, critical area stabilization, reestablishment of a native plant community, and mine spoil reclamation. Secar is one of the most widely adapted bluebunch cultivars available.

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.