Goldar bluebunch wheatgrass (Pseudoroegneria spicata)
Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings
Goldar should be seeded in late fall with a drill to a depth of ¼ to ½ inch in a firm, weed-free seedbed. The full seeding rate is 8 pounds Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre. For critical area stabilization, double the seeding rate to 16 pounds PLS/ac. When used as a component of a seed mix, adjust to the percent of mix desired.

Stands may require weed control measures during establishment. Application of 2,4-D should not be made until plants have reached the four to six-leaf stage. Mowing the stand when weeds are beginning to bloom will reduce weed seed development. Grasshoppers and other insects may also damage new stands and pesticides may be needed.

Stands of bluebunch wheatgrass should not be grazed until they are firmly established (usually two growing seasons) and have headed out. Six inches of new growth should be attained in spring before grazing is allowed in established stands. The growing point of bluebunch wheatgrass is fairly high and stands can easily be overgrazed. It is recommended that this grass be grazed under a rest or deferred rotation grazing system to ensure that plants remain healthy. Spring grazing should occur no more than one out of three years and no more than 40 percent utilization should occur during rapid growth. Heavy early spring grazing is especially damaging and should be delayed until at least mid-boot stage. No more than 60 percent utilization should occur after seed ripens.

Once established, Goldar is competitive with weedy species, but it can be crowded out by aggressive introduced species.

No detrimental disease symptoms or insect problems have been observed in plantings of Goldar. It may be susceptible to stripe rust and mildew if conditions are favorable for these pathogens.

Ecological Considerations
Goldar is native to the Western United States and has no known negative impacts on wild or domestic animals. Goldar is not considered a weedy or invasive species but can spread to adjoining vegetative communities under ideal environmental conditions.

Seed and Plant Production
Seed production of bluebunch wheatgrass has been very successful under cultivated conditions. Row spacing of 24 to 36 inches are recommended under irrigation and 36 inches under dryland conditions. Seeding rates of 3 to 4 PLS per acre are recommended. Cultivation is needed to maintain rows and weed-free conditions. Seed fields are productive for three to four years. Average production of 75 to 100 pounds per acre under dryland conditions and 150 to 250 pounds per acre under irrigated conditions can be expected. Harvesting is best completed by swathing, followed by combining of the cured rows. The seed heads readily shatter and require close scrutiny of maturing stands.

Availability
For conservation use: Seed is widely available from commercial seed vendors.

For seed or plant increase: Breeder and Foundation seed is maintained by the Aberdeen PMC. Foundation seed is available through the University of Idaho Foundation Seed Program and Utah Crop Improvement Association. Certification of seed shall be limited to not more than two generations from Foundation seed (Registered and Certified).

For more information, contact:
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Ph. 208-397-4133
Fax 208-397-3104
http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/idpmc/

Citation

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>