

# Continental

## Basin wildrye

*Leymus cinereus*



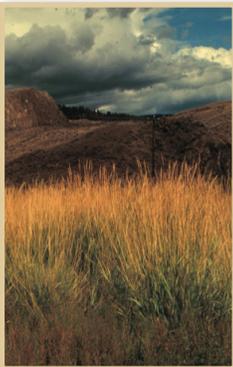
### Plant Overview



Basin wildrye is a statuesque late-maturing bunchgrass that is widespread throughout the Intermountain Region of the western U.S. It is highly drought tolerant once established, but in more arid regions, it tends to occupy ravines where water occasionally accumulates. The use of this species has been limited by its weak seedling vigor and poor seedling

establishment. Basin wildrye consists of two races having distinct chromosome numbers [i.e., basic chromosome number (n)]. Tetraploids (2n=28) are found east of the continental divide and in Utah, southern Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona, while octoploids (2n=56) are found in the northern Intermountain Region in Washington and British Columbia. Tetraploids and octoploids overlap in northeastern California, northern Nevada, and Oregon. Basin wildrye is predominately cross-pollinating.

'Continental' was released in 2008 by the USDA-ARS, the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State University, Logan, Utah. Continental was developed by hybridizing 'Magnar' (2n=56) and a chromosome-doubled version (2n=56) of 'Trailhead' (2n=28). Continental was then developed



by selection for seedling and mature-plant vigor.

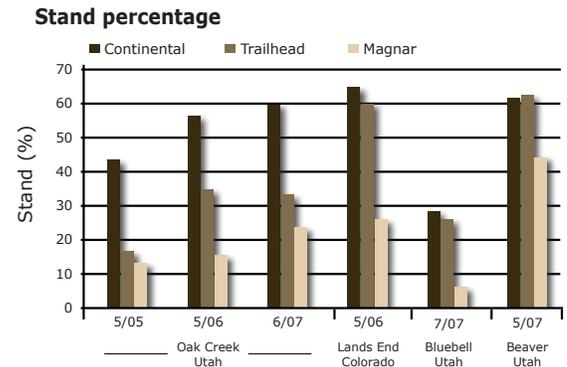
During summer, Magnar develops a distinct bluish wax on its leaves and stems, while Trailhead remains green. In Continental, about three-fourths of the plants are bluish. Continental has displayed similar or superior stand establishment to Trailhead and Magnar in evaluation trials in west-central Utah, northeastern Utah, southwestern Wyoming, and northwestern Colorado. Continental is expected to

be adapted in areas of the Intermountain Region where Trailhead and Magnar have been used successfully.

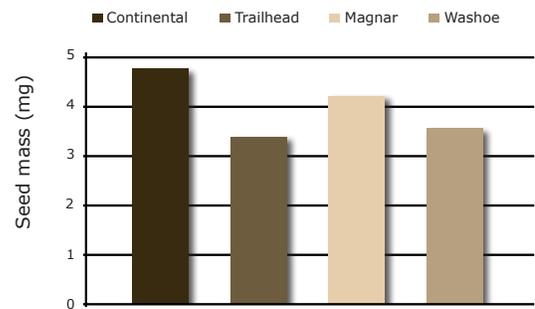
### Plant Benefits

- **RAPID SEEDLING ESTABLISHMENT**
- **ABUNDANT SEED YIELD**

#### Stand percentage and Seed Mass of basin wildrye



#### Seed mass at Millville, UT (2009)



### To order seed:

Check with local seed companies to determine availability or call the Utah Crop Improvement Association (435-797-2082; stanford.young@usu.edu) to find commercial seed growers. Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified seed classes will be recognized. Foundation seed is available through the Utah Crop Improvement Association.

