

Hycrest II

Crested wheatgrass

Agropyron cristatum

Plant Overview

It has been estimated that cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) has displaced approximately 10 million ha of perennial vegetation in the Great Basin. During the past 20 years, the frequency and size of cheatgrass infestations have continued to increase, which enhances fire frequency, destroys soil structure, and reduces the economic profitability of western U.S. rangelands. The control of cheatgrass without replacement by desirable perennial species frequently results in the reestablishment of cheatgrass or other noxious weeds on disturbed rangeland. Rapid seedling growth and ability to compete against cheatgrass are two characteristics that perennial grasses must have for successful establishment on semiarid western rangelands.

Crested wheatgrass is one of only a few grasses that has the ability to compete with difficult to control weedy annuals such as cheatgrass, halogeton, and medusahead on semiarid rangelands receiving between 10 to 15 inches of annual precipitation. Crested wheatgrass is a long-lived, drought-tolerant, bunch to moderately rhizomatous range grass that is adapted to a wide range of ecological sites including foothills, sagebrush, ponderosa pine, mountain brush, and pinyon-juniper habitats.



'Hycrest II' crested wheatgrass was released by the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service and the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State University, Logan, Utah in 2008, and is intended for use on arid and semiarid rangelands as a rapidly establishing revegetation grass in the Intermountain Region and Northern Great Plains of the western U.S. Hycrest II was selected for improved seedling establishment under dryland conditions.

Hycrest II produces more seedlings per unit area during the establishment year than Hycrest at



Hycrest II Hycrest

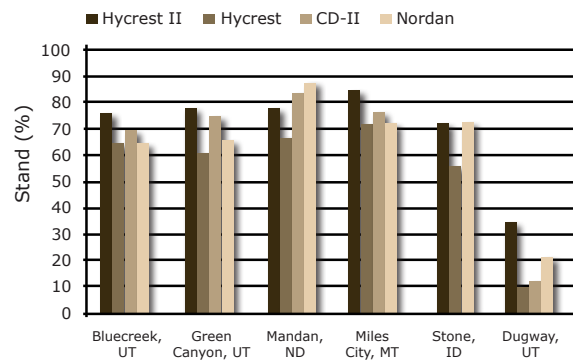
Bluecreek, UT; Green Canyon, UT; Mandan, ND; Miles City, MT; Dugway, UT, and; Curlew Valley, ID. Due to Hycrest II's increased seedling establishment potential (particularly

under harsh dry environments), it is intended to replace Hycrest for reseeding of severely disturbed range sites on heavier soils receiving less than 15 inches of annual precipitation. It is recommended that Hycrest II be planted as a component in seed mixes and not as a monoculture.

Plant Benefits

- **RAPID SEEDLING ESTABLISHMENT**
- **INCREASED DROUGHT TOLERANCE**
- **INCREASED STAND PERSISTENCE UNDER DROUGHT**

Stand Establishment



ID=Idaho, MT=Montana, ND=North Dakota, UT=Utah

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.

