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

Hycrest II

Plant Benefits

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

Stand Establishment

- Hycrest II
- Hycrest
- CD-II
- Nordan

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.

To order seed:

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

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RANGELAND: HYCREST II (VARIETY)

http://ars.usda.gov/npa/frrl/plantsforthewest

Forage and Range Research Laboratory Logan, Utah 1-435-797-2249 PLANTS FOR THE WEST