

Sand Hollow Germplasm

Big squirreltail

Elymus multisetus

Plant Overview



Big squirreltail is a native short-lived perennial bunchgrass that is noted for its ability to compete with invasive annual weeds such as cheatgrass and medusahead wildrye. This grass is most common in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho. Because of its prominent awns, this grass is not considered to be an important forage species, but it is popular in restoration mixes.

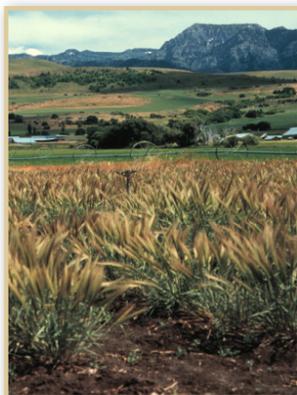
Sand Hollow was released in 1996 as a selected pre-variety germplasm (natural track) and is predominately self-pollinated. Participating in



Awns of Sand Hollow

the release were the USDA-ARS, Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State University, Logan and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sand Hollow was collected in Gem County, Idaho near the town of Emmett. The collection site was a west-facing slope consisting of loamy coarse sand where the average annual precipitation is about 11 inches.



Seed production of Sand Hollow

In general, big squirreltail is found in wetter habitats than bottlebrush squirreltail. However, Sand Hollow was collected from the driest portion of big squirreltail's distribution. Seed harvest of Sand Hollow requires close attention because of its tendency to

shatter. Care must also be taken in debearding during threshing, so as not to damage the seed and reduce viability. Sand Hollow was the first squirreltail release and today (2010) remains the only released big squirreltail.



Typical rangeland seeding

Plant Benefits

- **ABUNDANT SEED YIELDS**
- **COMPETITIVE WITH INVASIVE ANNUAL GRASSES**

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. Early generation seed is maintained by the USDA-ARS-FRRL at Logan, UT. Stock seed is available through Utah Crop Improvement Association.

