

Star Lake Germplasm

Indian ricegrass

Achnatherum hymenoides

Plant Overview



Indian ricegrass is an important bunchgrass that is found on light-textured soils throughout much of the Intermountain Region of the western U.S. Broad use of this

highly variable species has been hampered by poor seedling establishment due to very high levels of seed dormancy.

Star Lake was released in 2004 as a selected pre-variety germplasm (genetically manipulated track). Participating in the release were the USDA-



Flowering habit

ARS, the Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USDI-Bureau of Land Management. Star Lake was collected in northeastern McKinley County, New Mexico, about 14 miles northwest of the town of Torreon. Elevation at the collection site is 6,750 ft., and average annual

precipitation is about 10 inches. Star Lake was released on the basis of its high germinability, which is attributed to the thinness of the brown coverings that encapsulate the seed. Star Lake seed is relatively small and elongate in shape.

Star Lake is one of three seed morphs found at the Star Lake collection site (See image below).

Comparison of Indian ricegrass seed morphs



Jumbo (JS)

Globose (GS)

Star Lake

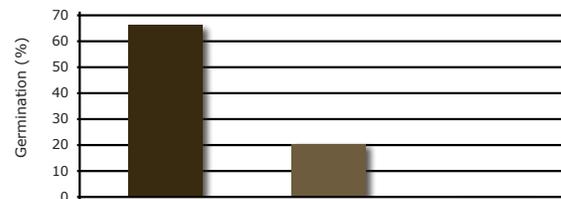


Plant Benefits

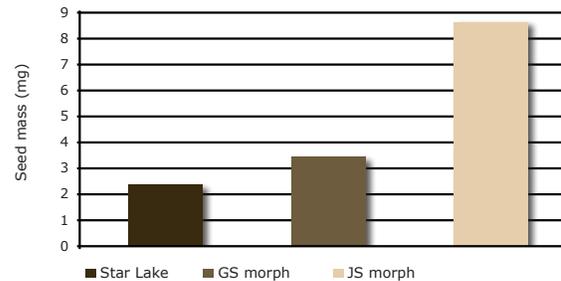
- **EXCELLENT GERMINABILITY**
- **ADAPTED TO THE FOUR CORNERS REGION & THE LOWER COLORADO PLATEAU**

Germination and seed mass of Indian ricegrass

Germination



Seed Mass



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.

