

'Greenar' INTERMEDIATE WHEATGRASS

Scientific Name: *Thinopyrum Intermedium*

Common Name: Intermediate Wheatgrass

Cultivar Name: 'Greenar' (PI 98568)

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: Washington, Idaho, and Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1945

ORIGIN: 'Greenar' was developed from selections made in 1937 from PI 98568, which was introduced by Westover-Enlow expedition from the former USSR in 1932. Open-pollinated selections made from planting one generation after introduction. Aberrant plants removed in following generations. Selections bulked and increased from field testing as P-2327.

DESCRIPTION: 'Greenar' is a vigorous, moderate sod forming wheatgrass; late maturing, leafy, dark green, broad leafed, and high producing. Plants are variable, but over 90% green. Less than 5% of plants show traces of pubescence. Spring recovery is early and abundant; fall recovery is good. Plant is very productive and aggressive. Widely adapted for conservation plantings on well-drained soils in dryland and irrigated areas.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: Plant is disease resistant.

SEED PRODUCTION: 'Greenar' is adapted to a wide area. It does best with at least 15 inches of rainfall and elevations of 1,000 to 3,500 ft. It is grown for seed on dryland areas in Eastern Washington and under irrigation is Central Washington. Seed yields are generally highest the second through the fourth season. On favorable sites and with proper management, high seed yields can be maintained for longer periods. Average yields under row spacing at Pullman have ranged from 200 to 400 pounds of clean seed per acre. Under irrigation, higher yields have been obtained.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: 'Greenar' planting in summer fallowed or fall plowed, clean, firm seedbeds are preferred. Early spring seedings are best, but late summer seeding may be made if moisture is sufficient to germinate seed rapidly. Late fall seedings may be made in low rainfall areas. Intermediate wheatgrass is planted alone at 8 pounds per acre. When seeded with alfalfa for hay or pasture, the rate is reduced to 6 pounds per acre. Seedings are best made with a drill to a shallow depth of not more than 1 inch and without a companion crop.

CONSERVATION USES: Its primary use is for hay and pasture in mixtures with alfalfa. Intermediate wheatgrass is in the heading stage when alfalfa is ready to be cut. It

therefore makes excellent hay. Intermediate wheatgrass can also be used for ground cover on low fertility level road cuts and fills. Here it does not grow tall. It also provides good cover for upland game birds.

AVAILABILITY: For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.