**Background Information**

Longawn sedge is perennial. It grows in wet places along the coast of Alaska—both in the mountains and along the shore. As its common name implies, it has very long awns. These awns are located on the flowering scales. They are approximately 2 mm long (see diagram on next page).

This sedge has short, branching rhizomes sometimes with a yellowish brown fuzz. Plants with rhizomes tend to have a better chance of surviving windy, rainy conditions.

**Distribution**

*Carex macrochaeta* is very common in wet places along the coast in Alaska (Hultén, 1968). It is rare inland.

It grows in wet meadows, waterfall spray areas, sandy beaches, and bogs (Welsh, 1974). Its distribution follows the coast from Alaska to Oregon. It is also found in the Yukon and Asia.

**Interesting Note:**

Longawn sedge is an important plant in the diet of bears, geese, and mountain goats.

According to a study of brown bears on the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (Atwell, et al., 1980), single and family units of bears ate *Carex macrochaeta* as their primary food source while the sedge was young.

Another report (Fox, 1991) looked at the forage quality of *C. macrochaeta* in terms of its nutritional value. This report showed longawn sedge had very high nitrogen, low fiber, and high sodium values in new-growth shoots.

Both mountain goats and bears follow the emergence of the sedge as snow melts in the spring. Bears leave the high country once the young shoots become mature and no new ones appear (Atwell, et al., 1980).
Attu Germplasm longawn sedge

for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Attu is recommended for revegetating disturbed and eroded coastal grasslands. It can withstand cold temperatures, saline conditions, and very wet places.

To Produce Attu

Attu Germplasm longawn sedge is produced with traditional farm equipment. It needs a moist soil for establishment. Plant the seeds approximately 1/4 inch deep.

New seedings have rapid seed germination and excellent seedling vigor. It takes two years for the crop to produce seed. Control of weeds and irrigation enable good field performance.

Seed can be harvested and cleaned easily with normal mechanical equipment.

References


