



# Council Germplasm arctic bluegrass

## *Poa arctica*

### Selected Class Release “Natural”

## Uses: Revegetation throughout Alaska

### Background Information

Arctic Bluegrass is circumpolar. It is often a colonizer of disturbed habitats.

In the wild, it is found as raised clumps on gravel, wet meadows, and soils near wetlands.

It is a cosmopolitan species, being able to grow on both acidic outcrops and calcareous substrate. It can be found on rocks, gravel, soil, moss, sand, silt and clay (Aiken, et al., 1995).

Arctic Bluegrass is a slender grass. Its height at maturity is between one and two feet. Its leaves are found mostly at the base. It is rhizomatous.



Map from Hultén, 1968.  
Used with the permission of Stanford University Press.

### Distribution

*Poa arctica* can be found throughout Alaska, in wet and dry meadows. Many times it is found as a tussock along streams, tundra, slopes, and ridges (Hultén, 1968).

Council Germplasm  
arctic bluegrass seed  
is maintained by the  
Alaska Plant Materials Center  
for commercial production.

### Council Germplasm

Plant Identification Number: 9097738

Council Germplasm arctic bluegrass was collected at Council, Alaska (near Nome) in 1995 (Wright, 2006).

This native grass is a Selected Class Release by the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). This means it has been grown and harvested at the PMC and continues to preserve its excellent performance.



This grass is recommended for use in revegetation because its seedlings are vigorous and provide good initial plant cover.

**Alaska Plant Materials Center**

*Serving Alaska's needs in production of Alaska native plants*

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# Council Germplasm arctic bluegrass

## Council Germplasm arctic bluegrass for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Council is ideal for seed mixes for revegetation in the arctic. Its seedlings are vigorous.

In the wild, arctic bluegrass is found as an early colonizer of disturbed places (Aiken, et al. 1995). This germplasm often colonizes and stabilizes such areas.

Its tolerance of acidity is an important characteristic for mine reclamation. As a plant of wet places, it can effectively grow where other grasses might die due to too much water.



*Poa arctica* seed  
~1,477,524 seeds per pound

### To Produce Council

Conventional farm equipment is needed. A drill for seeding at a depth of ~1/4 inch is recommended.

Council grows well on a medium wet, loamy soil.

Seedling vigor is fast and good. It grows best with irrigation, pest control, and fertilization.

Seed can be harvested easily with normal equipment.



*Council in production at the Alaska Plant Materials Center, Palmer.*

### *Poa arctica* plant characteristics

<b>Wetness Tolerance</b>	<b>moderate</b>
<b>Acidity Tolerance</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Seedling Vigor</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Yield Potential</b>	<b>fair</b>
<b>Longevity</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Drought Resistance</b>	<b>medium</b>
<b>Winter Hardiness</b>	<b>good</b>

### Revegetation Notes:

Geese graze specifically on *Poa arctica*. This may mean that in terms of restoration, *Poa arctica* can attract geese to the project—thus creating a more diverse habitat (Aiken et al., 1995).

### References

- Aiken, S.G, L.L. Consaul, and M.J. Dallwitz. 1995 onwards. *Poaceae of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago*. [Http://www.mun.ca/biology/delta/arcticf](http://www.mun.ca/biology/delta/arcticf).
- Hultén, E. 1968. *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*. © by the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Jr. University, Stanford University Press, Stanford.
- Wright, S. 2005. Personal discussion. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center, Palmer, Alaska.

**Peggy Hunt & Stoney Wright**  
State of Alaska  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Agriculture  
Plant Materials Center  
5310 S. Bodenbug Spur Rd.  
Palmer, AK 99645-9706  
Phone: (907) 745-4469