Nelchina Germplasm spike trisetum

Trisetum spicatum
Selected Class Release “Natural”

Uses: Revegetation Throughout Alaska

Background Information

Spike trisetum is an early colonizer. It can be found in the wild on disturbed sandy or silty soils, on acid or alkaline substrates, and on rocks, gravel, clay, or till (Aiken et al., 2001).

Spike trisetum has an excellent forage value—both for livestock and wild animals (Stubbendieck, 1986).

Growth

Spike trisetum is a short-lived perennial (~ 5 years). It starts growth after snowmelt, with seeds maturing in September. It reproduces by seed (USDA, 2005).

Spike trisetum grows about 2 feet high. It is a bunch grass. Its roots are fibrous.

The name trisetum refers to its 3 long awns per spikelet.

Distribution

Trisetum spicatum is found wild throughout Alaska in meadows, woods, and tundra. It is also circumpolar.

Nelchina Germplasm spike trisetum seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.

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

Nelchina Germplasm spike trisetum was collected near Nelchina, Alaska, by Stoney Wright. (Wright, 2005.)

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.

Nelchina Germplasm spike trisetum is tolerant of many kinds of sites. Fast growing from seed, it merits inclusion in revegetation seed mixes.
To Produce Nelchina Germplasm spike trisetum

Conventional farm equipment is needed. A drill for seeding to a depth of ~ 1/2 inch is recommended. Seed germinates in about 10 days if the soil is warm.

Seedling vigor is fast and good. Regular cultivation and spot spraying with herbicide enhances its growth.

Seed shatters moderately easy. Seed can be harvested easily with normal equipment (Burton, 2003).

References


