Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass

Poa alpina

Selected Class Release "Natural"

Uses: Revegetation Arctic and Interior Alaska

Background Information

Alpine bluegrass (*Poa alpina)* in the wild in Alaska grows in a wide range of habitats and soil conditions. Some of these are:

- dry slopes,
- gravelly sites,
- rocky sites,
- alpine and sub-alpine sites,
- meadows.

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

Distribution

Poa alpina is circumpolar in distribution. It is native to Alaska (see map). It is an alpine and low Arctic species. (Hultén, 1968).

Growth

Alpine bluegrass is a perennial bunch grass. It does not spread vegetatively, but instead is dependent on seeds for reproduction. It is a grass of medium height (10 - 40 centimeters).

Poa alpina, is tolerant to climatic, soil, fire, and drought conditions (USDA, NRCS, 2005).

This makes it important for high altitude and latitude revegetation. It has low nutrient requirements.

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass

Plant Identification Number: 9097736

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass was collected near Teller, Alaska in 1995 by Stoney Wright of the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). The town of Teller is near Nome, the Arctic Circle, and the Bering Strait.

This native grass is a Selected Class Release by the 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 reclamation and revegetation because its seedlings are vigorous and provide good initial plant cover.

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass is native to the northern areas in Alaska where permafrost and tundra is found.

Alaska Plant Materials Center
Serving Alaska's needs in production of Alaska native plants

July 23, 2007

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass
for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass germinates reliably in the field. Plus, it will grow on disturbed, gravelly, low nutrient sites!

This makes it an important part of mixes for alpine and sub-alpine revegetation, and for sites needing erosion control.

This grass is suited for revegetating disturbed tundra sites.

Note: Alpine Bluegrass does not perform well when planted with Annual Ryegrass.

Poa alpina seed
~ 1,307,205 *seeds per pound*

Production field of the Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass at the Plant Materials Center in Palmer, Alaska.

To Produce Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass

Teller Germplasm alpine bluegrass can be established on dry soil as long as there is some irrigation component.

Planting times are dependent upon the region. Early spring planting is recommended, although some Interior growers use fall planting.

Seed is harvested during the last week in June or the first week in July in Palmer, AK. Production continues for about 4 years (Wright, 2005).

Alpine Bluegrass is a short bunch grass that can grow almost anywhere!

Growing up to 50 cm, the flowering head develops with the leaves (USDA, NRCS, 2005).

Teller is a perennial that can serve as the pioneer species for a revegetation project. Once Teller is established and has stabilized the soil, natural invasion of other pioneer species can occur.

Teller plant characteristics

Wetness Tolerance	**fair**
Acidity Tolerance	**fair**
Seedling Vigor	**good**
Yield Potential	**low**
Longevity	**long**
Seed Production	**moderate**
Drought Resistance	**fair**
Winter Hardiness	**high**
Palatability	**fair**

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References

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