Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley

Hordeum brachyantherum

Selected Class Release "Natural"

Uses: Revegetation Within Its Natural Range In Alaska

Growth

Meadow barley is a colonizer. In the wild it can be found on moist to dry soils, under trees and in full sun, and on acid substrates.

Meadow barley has a moderate lifespan. It starts growth after snowmelt, with seeds maturing in September. It propagates by seed.

Meadow barley grows about 2 feet high. It has a bunch growth habit. Its awn is about one centimeter long.

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

Distribution

Hordeum brachyantherum is found wild in Alaska in wet meadows, beside riverbanks, on grassy slopes, and along shores. It is also native to much of North America.

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Plant Identification Number: 9097678

Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley was collected in Seward, Alaska, in 1996 (Wright, 2004).

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. It can be used as a nurse plant for slower growing native

Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.

Alaska Plant Materials Center

Serving Alaska's needs in production of Alaska native plants

July 17, 2007

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Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley
for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Meadow barley is ideal for a portion of a revegetation seed mix. It grows well on coarse, medium, and fine soils. It is able to grow on a pH between 6.0 and 8.5. It grows well in semi-wet areas.

With its early summer blooming and mid-summer seed-set, it is one of the earliest grasses to mature. It establishes quickly. At maturity it is about two feet high. (USDA, 2000).

It is competitive with annual grasses (Brown and Rice, 2000).

Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley in production at the Plant Materials Center, Palmer, Alaska.

Hordeum brachyantherum seed. ~126,492 seeds per pound

To Produce Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley

Conventional farm equipment is needed. A drill for seeding to a depth of ~1/2 inch is recommended.

Seeds germinate in about 21 days. Seedling vigor is fast and good. It grows best with irrigation, cultivation of weeds, and fertilization.

Seed can be harvested easily with normal equipment. Seed heads are ripe when light brown. Seed heads produce ripe seed at the top first (indeterminate). Shattering of the top seeds may occur (Young, 2001).

Hordeum brachyantherum
plant characteristics

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

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References

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