

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass

Poa glauca

Selected Class Release “Natural”

**Uses: Revegetation
Throughout Alaska**

Background Information

Glaucous bluegrass can be found on many types of soil: from slightly acidic to slightly basic; in very dry to slightly moist areas; and on gravel, sand, or organic matter.

It is a pioneer species, forming tussocks in disturbed areas. This provides a cover where willows and forbs can become established. (Aiker, et al., 1995).

Poa glauca grows to about 1 foot tall. It has a basal clump of bluish-green leaves from which arises the panicle of flowers and seeds. It is quite variable in its growth form.



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

Distribution

Poa glauca is found in Alaska on dry slopes and sandy places. It grows throughout most of mainland Alaska (Hultén, 1968). It is also circumpolar, being found in alpine or arctic regions.

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass

Plant Identification Number: 9097739

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass was collected near Nome, Alaska, by Stoney Wright 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 in Palmer, Alaska, 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.

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass does best on dry soils.

Alaska Plant Materials Center

Serving Alaska's needs in production of Alaska native plants

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Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass for Alaska revegetation purposes and erosion control

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass resembles 'Tundra' glaucous bluegrass, but can be grown throughout Alaska. The plants lodge less, produce more seed, and adapt well to most of the variable conditions found throughout Alaska.



Poa glauca seed
~1,320,000 seeds per pound

Plant the seed in a shallow furrow along with a mixture of other plants for revegetation of disturbed areas. *Poa glauca* is not known to be allelopathic. Its tuft-like growth provides protected areas for natural vegetation to take hold.

Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass is adapted for production in South Central Alaska.

To produce Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass

Clean, weed-free, medium-textured soil creates the best field to produce Nome. The soil should be well-drained. Plant seed 1/4 inch deep in rows. Seedlings should emerge within 14 days.

Weeding the rows through the summer enables the seedlings to grow vigorously. Nome Germplasm is susceptible to snow mold. A fungicide may need to be used.

Seed is produced the second year of growth. Seed can be harvested and cleaned with normal farm equipment.

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Nome Germplasm glaucous bluegrass production at the Plant Materials Center in Palmer, Alaska.

Poa glauca plant characteristics

Wetness Tolerance	poor
Acidity Tolerance	fair
Seedling Vigor	fair
Yield Potential	moderate
Longevity	medium
Seed Production	low
Drought Resistance	high
Winter Hardiness	high
Root System	bunch

(USDA, NRCS, 2005)

References

Aiker, S.G., L.L. Consaul, & M.J. Dallwitz. 1995 onwards. *Poaceae of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago: Descriptions, Illustrations, Identification, and Information Retrieval*. Version: 10th December 2001. <http://www.mun.ca/biology/delta/arctic/>.

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