



Pioneer Peak Germplasm nootka reedgrass *Calamagrostis nutkaënsis* Selected Class Release “Natural”

**Uses: Revegetation and Landscape
Coastal Regions
Southcentral and Southeast Alaska**

Background Information

Nootka reedgrass is a perennial, tufted grass with short rhizomes. It grows in clumps.

Its height can exceed 3 feet. Its leaves are wide and very sharp on the margins, often cutting unwary passersby. Its purplish-brown flower spike can reach 10 inches in length (Welsh, 1974).

In nature, *Calamagrostis nutkaënsis* is found in freshwater coastal areas. It is often the primary species in its environment.



Map from Hultén, 1968.
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Distribution

Nootka reedgrass can be found in California, Oregon, Washington, and, of course, Alaska. It is found in bogs, marshes, and freshwater swamps. It requires wet soil (USDA, 2007).

**Pioneer Peak Germplasm
nootka reedgrass seed
is maintained by the
Alaska Plant Materials Center
for commercial production.**

Pioneer Peak Germplasm

Pioneer Peak Germplasm nootka reedgrass was collected in 2000 by the Plant Materials Center staff (Wright, 2007). The original source was located in the hayflats region near Eklutna.

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 exhibit excellent performance.

This grass is recommended for use in revegetation because its seedlings are vigorous and able to survive in very wet conditions. Its shallow rhizomes are known for controlling soil erosion. The leaves and flowers of nootka reedgrass enhance the diversity of the finished project.



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Pioneer Peak Germplasm nootka reedgrass

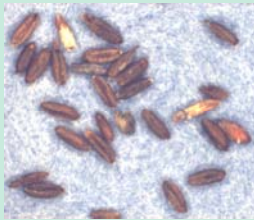


Pioneer Peak Germplasm nootka reedgrass for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Pioneer Peak grows easily and quickly in moist situations.

For a diverse and hardy revegetation mix in coastal areas in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska, include Pioneer Peak with some of these coastal species: 'Sourdough' bluejoint reedgrass, Attu Germplasm longawn sedge, Port Clarence Germplasm largeflower speargrass, Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass, and 'Reeve' beach wildrye.

Contact the Plant Materials Center for advice.



Calamagrostis nutkaënsis seed.
~15,120,000 seeds per pound



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Pioneer Peak in production at the Alaska Plant Materials Center, Palmer.

Pioneer Peak Germplasm nootka reedgrass is a tall, clumping grass with a striking appearance, growing up to 4 feet in height. Its flowering purple spikes and wide leaves may be useful in landscapes with standing water.

To Produce Pioneer Peak

Conventional farm equipment is needed. Either use a drill for seeding to a depth of ~1/4 inch or sow on the surface. Seed may be sown in the spring. Soil must be moist.

Cultural practices of light irrigation, cultivation of weeds, and fertilization should enhance growth.

Collection of seeds begins when inflorescences and seed are brown.

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References

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