

Plants for Solving Resource Problems

'RUSH' INTERMEDIATE WHEATGRASS

Species: *Thinopyrum intermedium*

Common Name: Intermediate
Wheatgrass

Plant Symbol: THIN6
Accession Number: PI-575702

Source: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center at Aberdeen, Idaho received the original seed as PI-281863 from the German Botanical Garden, Berlin, in 1962, under the identification *Agropyron junceum*.

Native Site Information: This species is native to Eurasia and has been cultivated there and in the United States for many years.

Method of Selection: Rush was compared with seven released cultivars of intermediate wheatgrass and other cool season grasses at sites throughout the western United States. It was selected for superior seedling emergence and vigor. Rush has equal to or superior forage production compared to other intermediate wheatgrass releases.

Description: Rush is a cool-season, sod-forming, perennial grass. It is moderately rhizomatous, densely tillering with abundant stems and leaves, 48 to 60 inches tall. Foliage varies from moderately glaucous to green. The variety is stable and exhibits limited variability. There is variation in leaf color from green to moderately glaucous and approximately five percent of the plants exhibit reduced rhizomes.



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Use: The potential uses of Rush intermediate wheatgrass are for rangeland and pastureland seeding in 12 to 20 inch precipitation zones for erosion control, forage and cover; mine spoil reclamation as part of a mixture to provide fast, early growth and protection; critical area stabilization where a fast germinating, rhizomatous perennial is needed; filter strips to trap sediment; irrigated pasture to provide feed and cover; competition with aggressive annuals such as cheatgrass and medusahead because of its ability to establish quickly.

Insect and Disease Problems: No highly detrimental disease symptoms or insect

problems have been observed in plantings of Rush.

Environmental Considerations: This release is from a species that was introduced to the United States in the early 1900's. Rush represents an incremental improvement in performance within a well documented species. Rush spreads slowly vegetatively and very little via seed distribution. It is not considered a weedy or invasive species but can spread into adjoining vegetative communities under ideal environmental conditions. There are no known negative impacts on wild or domestic animals.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Rush is adapted to the Northwest and Intermountain West regions of the United States where annual precipitation is 12 inches or more. It may be adapted to the mountains of the Southwest, the Western and Northern Great Plains and the Southern Canadian Plains.

Soil Adaptation: Rush is well adapted to moderately deep, loamy soils but also grows on sandy and clayey soils.

Planting and Harvesting: Rush should be seeded with a drill to a depth of 1/4 to 3/4 inches in a firm, weed-free seedbed. The full seeding rate is 10 pounds Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre. When used as a component of a seed mix, adjust to the percent of mix desired.

For seed production, Rush should be seeded in 36 inch rows at a seeding rate of 4.9 pounds PLS per acre to allow mechanical weed control and to maintain rows. Rush may be seeded during the spring, late summer, or fall (dormant).

Harvesting seed is best accomplished by swath, followed by combining of the cured windrows in mid-to-late August. Seeds will readily shatter when mature and if direct combining is desired, close scrutiny of maturing stands will be required. Seed

yields range from 250 pounds per acre (dryland) to 500 pounds per acre (irrigated).

Seed Maintenance: Breeder and Foundation seed is maintained at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.
Aberdeen, ID 83210
Phone: (208) 397-4133

Foundation seed is available through the University of Idaho Foundation Seed Program, Utah Crop Improvement Association and Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho, Utah and Nevada. Certification of seed shall be limited to not more than two generations from Foundation seed. Variety protection has been granted under the Plant Variety Protection Act of 1970. Conditions of this license specify that Rush seed can be marketed only as a class of certified seed.

November 2006



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