

Crested Wheatgrass

Agropyron desertorum (A.cristatum)



Crested Wheatgrass is a cool season, vigorous growing, and drought tolerant, winter hardy, perennial bunchgrass which grows to a height of 1 to 3 feet. It's dark green leaf blades taper to a sharp point and extend sharply upward from the base during the early part of the growing season. The leaf sheaths, which wrap tightly around the stems, are longer than the internodes, and have a smooth surface. The seed heads are approximately two inches long; have an unusual flat cockscomb or crested shape; and taper toward the tip, with the axis showing fine hairs.

The grass has an extensive fibrous root system which penetrates as much as six feet. This gives the plant an advantage over weeds and enables it to do well in areas of as little as 12 inches of annual rainfall. Its drought tolerance, winter hardiness, and ability to withstand grazing, combined with high palatability and nutritious forage make it a valuable plant. There are two distinct species of crested wheatgrass – Standard (*A. desertorum*), and Fairway – *A. cristatum*).

Crested wheatgrass should generally be seeded below 7,000 feet elevation. Crested wheatgrass does well on shallow to deep, moderately coarse to fine textured, moderately well to well drained soils. Under saline conditions, vigor and production are reduced.

Seeding Rate: 5 to 7 PLS Lbs/ Ac

Height Range (inches): 12 – 36

Seeds Per Pound: 311,200

Taxonomy

Species: Agropyron cristatum or Agropyron desertorum

Genus: Agropyron Gaertn.

Family: Poaceae

Order: Cyperales

Subclass: Commelinidae

Class: Liliopsida

Division: Magnoliophyta

Subkingdom: Tracheobionta

Kingdom: Plantae



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