

The Soil Conservation Service operates and maintains one of its 23 plant materials centers at Aberdeen, Idaho. Special emphasis is placed on finding suitable plants for erosion control on soils and sites where it is difficult to establish protective vegetative cover.

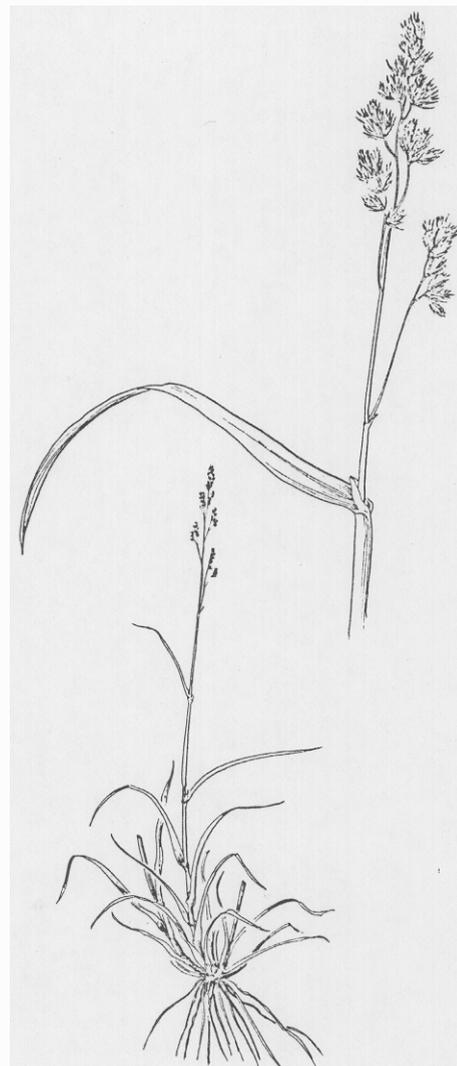
Plant materials are a significant component of about two-thirds of the conservation practices farmers, ranchers and other find essential to the solution of erosion and sedimentation problems. It is SCS policy to assemble, evaluate, release and distribute for commercial increase, new or improved plant materials needed for resource conservation and development.



United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Salt Lake City, Utah



Paiute Orchardgrass



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Paiute Orchardgrass

Paiute was developed as a forage crop for arid rangelands which receive as little as 11 inches of annual precipitation. It is a persistent bunchgrass. In comparison to Fairway or standard crested wheatgrass, Paiute greens up a week to 10 days earlier in the spring, remains green longer, and has better fall growth.

Paiute was released by the USDA Forest Service Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Soil Conservation Service, Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources, and Agricultural Experiment Stations of the Universities of Idaho, Utah State, and Arizona in 1982-83.

Adaptability

Paiute is well adapted on well-drained basic and acidic soils. It performs well on a variety of soils from clay to gravelly loam and on shallow to deep soils.

Areas of greatest adaptability are the sagebrush-grass and pinyon-juniper communities, although the plant has performed well when seeded in the aspen and Douglas fir communities.

Under dryland conditions, Paiute usually develops distinct clumps and flower culms 15 to 18 inches tall. Leaves are usually less than 12 inches in height.

Uses

Livestock and big game have shown a preference for Paiute.

Paiute has good potential for erosion control, fire-breaks, critical area treatment, and range rehabilitation.

Seeding Recommendations

A clean, firm, weed-free seedbed is recommended. Range and erosion control seedings should be made in the late or very early spring. A deep furrow or range drill with press wheels may be used.

For range and critical area treatment, a seeding rate of three to four pounds per acre is recommended. Seeding depth should not be more than one-half inch.

When seeding for seed increase, it should be done in rows 28 to 40 inches apart. Seed at one and one-half

to two pounds per acre.

Seed matures evenly and is ready for harvest in mid-August at Ephraim, Utah. It is non-shattering and can be harvested with a field combine. Under irrigation with good management, a yield of about 300 pounds per acre of seed may be expected. There are approximately 375,000 seeds per pound.

Management

Under dryland conditions, the planting should not be grazed until late summer or fall of the second growing season.

This plant responds well to a rotation-deferred grazing system. Use no more than 60% of the annual growth during the winter season or 50% during the growing season.

Seed Availability

Breeders and foundation seed will be maintained by the Plant Materials Center at Aberdeen, Idaho. Foundation and/or registered seed may be obtained through Soil Conservation Districts, University Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Crop Improvement Associations.