

REED CANARYGRASS

Phalaris arundinacea



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to North America. Large, moderately coarse, tall, cool-season, sod-forming grass. Thick culms, 3 to 6' tall, from large leafy sod clumps. Roots shallow, stout, spreading rhizomes. Leaf blades flat, thick, and rigid, up to 1" wide. Inflorescence a narrow, dense panicle 3 to 7" long.

GROWTH HABIT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on poorly drained, wetland areas that are frequently flooded or sub-irrigated, especially in silty or clayey textured soils. Moderately tolerant of coarser sandy soils. Thrives on uplands under irrigation. Growth starts in early spring and continues until frost with adequate moisture and fertility. High forage yielding. Only moderate drought tolerance. Winterkills

without adequate moisture or snow cover. Occurs from near sea level to about 9,000' elevation in Rocky Mountains.

Moderate tolerance of saline, and acidic soils. Not shade tolerant. Some tolerance of controlled burning due to rhizomes. Strong tolerance of grazing except in early growth stages. Competitive, rapidly spreading by seeds and rhizomes. Incompatible with most species but can retain in legume mixtures with intensive culture and management.

CULTURE

Drill seed 1/4 – 3/4" deep in fine to medium coarse textured soils or broadcast seed and cover to similar depths. Drill seed 3 to 6 lbs. PLS per acre for pasture. Use only seed tested recently because seeds rapidly lose viability. Most successful seeding dates are spring, late summer; or late fall on poorly drained areas. Seeds germinate slowly and irregularly. Full stands may not be attained until third season. New seedlings need weed control and protection from grazing. Stands also established by pushing sod pieces or jointed stems into wet soils.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Widely used, especially in north central and Pacific Northwest for humid, wet, or irrigated pasture, hay, and silage. Valuable for gully control and maintenance of grassed stream channel, edges of farm ponds, and silting basins. Useful with industrial effluents disposed systems. A potential weed and silt accumulator along slow and shallow streams. Considered on mined lands only if adequate moisture or receives additional irrigation. Medium palatability to livestock when actively growing.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Ioreed' released from Iowa.
'Palaton' and 'Venture' from Iowa.
'Rival' released from Canada.
'Vantage' released from Iowa. 'Palaton'.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

PawneeButtesSeed.com 1-800-782-5947