

# Topar Pubescent Wheatgrass



**Extension Service  
Institute of Agricultural Sciences  
State College of Washington  
Pullman, Washington**

# Topar Pubescent Wheatgrass

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Topar pubescent wheatgrass has been approved by the Washington Agricultural Experiment Stations for release in Eastern Washington. It has been accepted by the Washington State Crop Improvement Association and the State Department of Agriculture as eligible for certification in Washington.

Topar pubescent wheatgrass is a drought-resistant, sod-forming, late-maturing wheatgrass. It resembles Intermediate wheatgrass but has pubescence on the leaves, stems, and seed.

## **Where is it recommended?**

Pubescent wheatgrass is recommended in Eastern Washington only. In high rainfall areas (16 inches or more), or under irrigation, Topar pubescent wheatgrass is not as good as Intermediate wheatgrass or Manchar smooth brome grass. Its primary uses are for range reseeding, forage production on abandoned farm lands, dry land waterways seeding, or as a grass planting with alfalfa in dry areas at the lower limits of alfalfa production. Pubescent wheatgrass is superior to Intermediate on the basis of persistence, rate of spread, production, and adaptability to low fertility, eroded, or alkaline soils. It is also adapted to higher elevations than Intermediate wheatgrass.

## **Where can you get seed?**

Foundation seed of Topar pubescent wheatgrass is available through the Washington State Crop Improvement Association and the Soil Conservation Districts.

Washington seed growers who can meet the isolation requirements for the production of registered seed, should apply for foundation seed through their County Crop Improvement Associations.

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### **Where should seed be produced?**

When grown for seed production, Topar should be seeded in rows and cultivated.

Topar pubescent wheatgrass will cross-pollinate with Intermediate wheatgrass. Take care that seed production fields are isolated well enough to prevent crossing.

### **What is recommended mixture for forage production?**

Recommended mixture is 8 pounds of pubescent wheatgrass and 4 pounds of alfalfa per acre. This mixture should be planted on a well-prepared seedbed. It should be limited to areas where it is too dry or infertile for Intermediate wheatgrass and alfalfa. For straight seeding of pubescent wheatgrass, 8 pounds of seed are adequate.

This is circular No. 3 in a series on grasses and legumes.

**Washington certified seed is free from  
noxious weeds, has high germination, and  
high purity.**

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