

## MEADOW BARLEY - *Hordeum brachyantherum*

**Market:** Disturbed, compacted sites, culvert removal, side cast, pull back, general reclamation and soil stabilization, DOT, USFS, SCS and wetland and riparian sites.

**Characteristics:** Meadow barley is a medium sized (1 meter), short-lived, perennial bunch grass with strong seedling vigor. It is a relatively large seeded native with approximately 60,000 seeds per pound. Meadow barley can be found in meadows, bottom lands, salt marshes and grassy slopes from sea level to 7,000 ft. where annual rainfall ranges between 10-36 inches. It is tolerant of alkaline soil and will establish on infertile compacted sites. Generally, meadow barley will not persist on dry sites. These characteristics make meadow barley an ideal non-competitive nurse crop with other long-lived perennial native grasses, legumes and herbaceous plants. Meadow barley is the most popular of the native grasses and is used in many native blends because it grows quickly and easily. Meadow barley is an ideal habitat plant, annually erasing predator trails and providing some edible seed for nesting waterfowl.

**Comments:** Meadow barley is a major component of the "Big 3" native species mixture used in the warm summer semi-arid transitional regions of the western USA. Because of the large seed size of meadow barley the seeding rate is generally higher than many of the natives included in complementary native species mixtures. Meadow barley seed is extremely bulky with multiple awns and two vestigial (winged) non-viable florets. For effective seed box planting these wings and awns must be removed (debearded) during the seed cleaning process.

**Seeding rate:** Plant @ 10-30 lbs per acre. Higher seeding rates recommended on heavy clay loam or bulk density soils. Lower rates on sandy loam soils.

**Availability:** There are several ecotypes of meadow barley presently available adapted to the Pacific Northwest. **Eugene BLM** meadow barley has multiple tillers, dense bright green leaf canopy and excellent reseeding capability, **USFWS Finley NWR** meadow barley a short more decumbent population with very small seed. Please contact Pacific Northwest Natives for details.



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