

## DENSE SPIKE PRIMROSE *Epilobium densiflorum*

**Market:** WDOT, ODOT, ADOT, USFS, SCS, USFWS, disturbed sites, reclamation, mitigation and soil stabilization of wetland site.

**Characteristics:** Dense spike primrose is a short, erect, annual, herbaceous forb. It has approximately 1,200,000 seeds per pound. It is a facultative wetland species. Leaves are covered with tiny hairs and the main stem is single or somewhat branched in upper stem. Flowers in spikes are pale pink to rose or purplish situated in axils of the upper stem and attached directly to the main stem (sessile). Flowers are 3-12 mm long, notched at tips. Mature plants range from 30-100 cm in height depending on soil type and hydrology. Habitat consists of wet prairies, vernal pools, near ponds; mostly in sites that are wet in spring but dry in late summer.

**Comments:** Dense spike primrose exhibits strong seedling vigor and good plant coverage for a small seeded native species. This true annual is a precocious seeder and will readily reseed during the fall prior to plant senescence and/or death. Dense spike primrose responds well to warmer soil temperatures during July and August. It is especially common in the Willamette Valley and is nearly always found in clay soils that have a high capacity to shrink and swell. Fall planting is recommended if reseeding is desired (vernalization). On heavy clay fully saturated soils native seed mixtures containing dense spike primrose, *Glyceria* spp, *Beckmannia syzigachne*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica* and other obligate and/or facultative wetland species are recommended to reclaim reed canarygrass invaded wetland and residually wet riparian sites.

**Seeding rate:** Seed @ 4-6 lbs. per acre. Drill seeding requires 30% less seed than broadcast. Lower seeding rates are recommended on loam soils. Higher seeding rates are recommended on high bulk density or clay loam soils.

**Availability:** Eugene BLM is population collected in the West Eugene Wetlands and Amazon Creek. It is characterized by a uniform, upright, dense plant growth and dark green leaf color. It is very late in flowering compared to many native herbaceous annual and perennial native species.

