

SPIKE BENTGRASS *Agrostis exerata*

Market: WDOT, ODOT, ADOT, USFS, SCS, USFWS disturbed sites, culvert removal, side cast, pull back, reclamation and soil stabilization, wetland, riparian and upland site native seed mixtures.

Characteristics: Spike bentgrass is a slender, stout, tufted perennial grass that does not have rhizomes or stolons but has growth points from basal nodes or tillers. Seed size is extremely small approximately 5.5-6 million seeds per pound. Spike bentgrass grows where annual rainfall ranges between 12-35 inches or higher. Spike bentgrass is a short, slender native. Mature plants range from 20-120 cm in height. Habitat consists of stream-banks, tidal marshes, rocky beaches, bluffs, wet meadows, river bars, clearings, moist open ground from sea level to middle elevations from southeastern Alaska to southern California. Generally not found above 6,550 ft elevation. Spike bentgrass unlike many *Agrostis* spp is compatible with other annual and perennial native grasses, forbs, legumes and tree plantings. Therefore it is highly recommended as a component in custom native mixtures for re-vegetation of logged-off, burned-over timberlands, oak woodlands and wet prairies. Spike bentgrass provides excellent wildlife habitat for mammals, birds and waterfowl.

Comments: Spike bentgrass seed has distinct slender awn (spike) that is characteristic of this species. During conditioning (seed cleaning) spike bentgrass is lightly debarbed (removal of awns) to facilitate flow of seed for secondary seed cleaning (gravity table) or seed box planting and/or drilling. Spike bentgrass, unlike many small seed native species exhibits strong seedling vigor; rapid establishment and good plant coverage 100 days post seeding.

Seeding rate: Seed @ 2-5 lbs. per acre. Drill seeding requires 30% less seed than broadcast. Lower seeding rates are recommended on sandy loam soils. Higher seeding rates are recommended on high bulk density or clay loam soils.

Availability: Eugene BLM is population adapted to western WA, OR and BC sourced from West Eugene Wetland and Wolf Creek in Lane county. It is characterized by an attractive blue-gray leaf color a short tufted moderately dense plant type and a plume of tight spike-like to open spikelets. It has excellent seed production potential and has strong reseeding capability for small seeded native species.



