

## RIVERBANK LUPINE (streambank) *Lupinus rivularis*

**Market:** ODOT, WDOT, ADOT, USFS, SCS, USFWS, public agencies and landowners. For wet prairies, streambanks, riverbanks, gravel-bars, soil stabilization, riparian and floodplain wetland site native seed mixtures where legumes are required.

**Characteristics:** Riverbank lupine is a robust, stout, annual legume that provides low to moderate height forage and ground cover. It has white tips on its blue flowers in contrast to the all-blue flowers of large-leaf lupine *Lupinus polyphyllus*. Seed size is large approximately 30,000 seeds per pound. Riverbank lupine grows where annual rainfall ranges between 18-40 inches or higher and is most dominant on well drained, gravelly or loaming soil sites with good internal drainage. It is classified as a facultative wetland species (Guard, 1995). Mature plants range from 80-90 cm in height but can grow taller under optimal growing conditions. Habitat consists of streambanks, creeks, river-bars, and sloping roadsides in lower elevations of the Pacific coast from southeastern Alaska to southern California. Riverbank lupine unlike many lupine species is compatible with annual and perennial native grasses, forbes, legumes and tree plantings. Therefore, it is highly recommended as a component in native blends and mixtures where legumes are required. Riverbank lupine provides excellent habitat for pollinating and feeding insects and birds.

**Comments:** Riverbank lupine seed has characteristic hard seed content that can range from 30-40% during year of seed crop harvest. Hard seed content decreases over time under standard seed storage conditions. Hard seed require cold stratification and or seed coat breakdown to facilitate inhibition of water during seed germination. Seed can be mechanically scarified to enhance germination. Riverbank lupine exhibits good seedling vigor, rapid establishment and good plant coverage in fall plantings. However, a significant amount of its growth and branching is realized in the spring when soil temperatures and photoperiods are increasing in the Pacific Northwest.

**Seeding rate:** Seed @ 6-10 lbs. per acre. Drill seeding requires 30% less seed than broadcast seeding. Lower seeding rates are recommended on sandy loamy soils. Higher seeding rates are recommended on high bulk density or clay loam soils.

**Availability:** Eugene BLM and Portland Metro is population adapted to western Oregon and sourced from West Eugene Wetlands and Portland Metro near Marine Drive (Columbia River). It is characterized by a glaucous or near glaucous appearance, delicate leaves and a deep blue to purplish-white flower color. It has good seed production potential and has excellent reseeding (aerial seed dispersal) capability for small seed native legume.

