

## ■ Introduced Plants

Introduced plants include species that are NOT a part of the original flora of the area in question. Listed on the following pages are common introduced grasses and forbs found in North Dakota and eastern Minnesota with a short description, season of growth, site found on, forage value, and their response to grazing.

## **Altai wildrye**

A cool-season, perennial bunchgrass adapted to a wide range of soils and sites. This grass is a special purpose grass used to extend the grazing season into late summer and fall (October and November). Recommended as a single species stand for grazing.



## **Crested wheatgrass**

A cool-season, perennial bunchgrass adapted to a wide variety of soils and sites, particularly in western North Dakota. This grass is a special purpose grass used for spring grazing (early May-mid June); however, it can and has become a nuisance invading plant on native rangeland. Recommended as a single species stand for grazing and hayland or mixed with alfalfa for hay production.



## **Intermediate/Pubescent wheatgrass**

Cool-season, perennial sod-forming grass adapted to a wide range of soils and sites; however, it does not tolerate saline soils. This grass is a special purpose grass used for pastureland, hay, and conservation programs. Intermediate/pubescent wheatgrass can provide grazing from late spring into early summer and produce a large quantity of hay.



## **Kentucky bluegrass**

A cool-season, perennial, mid-stature sod-forming grass found on moist, well drained soils. Often associated with overflow, loamy, and subirrigated ecological sites. This grass invades and increases with overgrazing and no use, frequently replacing desirable native mid and tall grass species. Kentucky bluegrass is very palatable and nutritious to all classes of livestock when immature. Nutritional quality and palatability declines rapidly with maturity. Regrowth in the fall provides good quality feed with favorable growing conditions occur. Many ranchers refer to Kentucky bluegrass as junegrass.



## **Meadow bromegrass**

A cool-season, perennial bunchgrass found on fine to moderately fine texture soils. It is generally not recommended in western North Dakota due to its low drought tolerance. This grass is a special purpose grass used for spring and early summer grazing (early May to mid July). Recommended alone or in combination with other introduced grasses or legumes for grazing and hay production.



## **Russian wildrye**

A cool-season, perennial bunchgrass adapted for fine to moderately textured soils (silty and clayey). This grass is a special purpose grass used to extend the grazing season into late summer and fall (October–December). Recommended as a single species stand for grazing.



## **Smooth bromegrass**

A cool-season, perennial sod-forming grass found on fine to moderately fine texture soils. In western North Dakota it is often associated with sites that receive addition moisture. This grass is a special purpose grass used for spring grazing (early May to mid June); however, it can and has become a nuisance invading plant on native rangeland. Smooth bromegrass, when present, will increase and dominate when idled for an extend period of time. Recommended alone or in combination with other introduced grasses or legumes for grazing and hay production.



## **Tall wheatgrass**

A coarse, cool-season, perennial bunch-grass found on fine to moderate textured soils. This is a special purpose grass used to revegetate saline/alkali soils and for conservation programs to enhance wildlife habitat. This plant, a late maturing cool-season grass, becomes coarse and unpalatable to livestock as it matures. Tall wheatgrass is not generally recommended for pasture. However, it may provide adequate hay if harvested prior to seedhead development.



## **Alfalfa**

An introduced, cool-season perennial legume adapted to a wide variety of soil textures. Alfalfa's primary use is for hay production but it is also included in varying amounts in pasture and conservation program seeding mixtures. Alfalfa can be seeded alone or in combination with cool-season grasses to provide a high quality feed for livestock.



## **Sweetclover**

An introduced, cool-season biennial legume adapted to a wide variety of soil textures and sites. Sweet clover is primarily used in seed mixtures for conservation cover and wildlife habitat. Sweet clover provides good quality hay when seeded alone or in combination with other cool-season grasses. Note: sweet clover is not an efficient user of water, often depleting moisture and creating a drought-like affect.

