

## **Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley**

Hordeum brachyantherum Selected Class Release "Natural"

Uses: Revegetation Within Its Natural Range Im Alaska

#### Growth

Meadow barley is a colonizer. In the wild it can be found on moist to dry soils, under trees and in full sun, and on acid substrates.

Meadow barley has a moderate lifespan. It starts growth after snowmelt, with seeds maturing in September. It propagates by seed.

Meadow barley grows about 2 feet high. It has a bunch growth habit. Its awn is about one centimeter long.



Map from Hultén, 1968. Used with the permission of Stanford University Press.

#### Distribution

Hordeum brachyantherum is found wild in Alaska in wet meadows, beside riverbanks, on grassy slopes, and along shores. It is also native to much of North America. Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley Plant Identification Number: 9097678

Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley was collected in Seward, Alaska, in 1996 (Wright, 2004).

This native grass is a Selected Class Release by the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). This means it has been grown and harvested at the PMC and continues to preserve its excellent performance.



Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production. This grass is recommended for use in revegetation because its seedlings are vigorous and provide good initial plant cover. It can be used as a nurse plant for slower growing native

**Alaska Plant Materials Center** 

Serving Alaska's needs in production of Alaska native plants

**July 17, 2007** 





## **Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley**

### Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Meadow barley is ideal for a portion of a revegetation seed mix. It grows well on coarse, medium, and fine soils. It is able to grow on a pH between 6.0 and 8.5. It grows well in semi-wet areas.

With its early summer blooming and mid-summer seed-set, it is one of the earliest grasses to mature. It establishes quickly. At maturity it is about two feet high. (USDA, 2000).

It is competitive with annual grasses (Brown and Rice, 2000).



Hordeum brachyantherum seed. ~126,492 seeds per pound

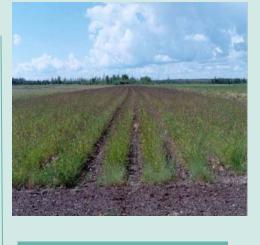
# To Produce Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley

Conventional farm equipment is needed. A drill for seeding to a depth of  $\sim 1/2$  inch is recommended.

Seeds germinate in about 21 days. Seedling vigor is fast and good. It grows best with irrigation, cultivation of weeds, and fertilization.

Seed can be harvested easily with normal equipment. Seed heads are ripe when light brown. Seed heads produce ripe seed at the top first (indeterminate). Shattering of the top seeds may occur (Young, 2001).

Peggy Hunt & Stoney Wright State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Agriculture Plant Materials Center 5310 S. Bodenburg Spur Rd. Palmer, AK 99645-9706 Phone: (907) 745-4469



Lowell Point Germplasm meadow barley in production at the Plant Materials Center, Palmer, Alaska.

# Hordeum brachyantherum plant characteristics

**Wetness Tolerance** good **Acidity Tolerance** high **Seedling Vigor** medium **Yield Potential** medium Longevity moderate **Seed Production** high **Drought Resistance** medium **Winter Hardiness** high **Palatability** low

### References

Brown, Cynthia and Kevin Rice. 2000. *The Mark of Zorro, Effects of the Exotic Annual Grass, Vulpia myuros, on California Native Perennial Grasses.* In: Restoration Ecology, Vol.8, No.1, pp.10-17.

Hultén, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. © by the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Jr. University, Stanford University Press, Stanford.

USDA, NRCS National Plant Data Center. 2000. *Meadow Barley—Hordeum brachyantherum*. http://plants.usda.gov.

Wright, S. 2004. *Personal discussion*. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center, Palmer, Alaska.

Young, Betty. 2001. *Propagation protocol for production of container Hordeum brachyantherum plants.* In: Native Plant Network. URL: http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org.