

# 'Primar' SLENDER WHEATGRASS

**Scientific Name:** *Elymus trachycaulus ssp. trachycaulus*

**Common Name:** Slender Wheatgrass

**Cultivar Name:** 'Primar' (ELLTRT)

**Selected By:** Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

**Release Cooperators:** USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

**Release Date:** 1946

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**ORIGIN:** 'Primar' was one of the first native American grasses to become a cultivated crop. This grass occurs naturally from New Mexico to Alaska and from the Cascade Mountains east to Newfoundland. This grass was first cultivated in 1895 and is now grown and used extensively in the Canadian prairie provinces and adjacent Dakotas. The native seed was collected near Beebe, MT, in 1933.

**DESCRIPTION:** 'Primar' is a new early-maturing, leafy, disease-resistant, rapid-development variety. It is specifically adapted for the use in sweetclover grass mixtures in the Palouse area of the Pacific Northwest. In comparison with other slender wheatgrass strains, it is earlier in spring recovery, more productive in growth, and has coarser, more abundant leaves and stems. It is compatible with and has a growth rate corresponding to that of sweetclover. Primar is ten days earlier in seed maturity and grows 5 to 10 inches taller than Mecca slender wheatgrass.

**DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS:** No significant problems have been noted.

**SEED PRODUCTION:** 'Primar' has the highest seed production the second to the fourth year depending greatly upon site, moisture, and soil fertility. The average clean seed yield at Pullman has ranged from 500-1000 pounds per acre in 36 inch row seedings. Under irrigation Primar has an average of 800 pounds of seed per acre for over a five year period.

## **SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**CONSERVATION USES:** 'Primar' was used mainly as a green manure crop. It has been used for seeding cut over timber land. Seed is no longer commercially available for planting.

**AVAILABILITY:** For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email [crowder@wsu.edu](mailto:crowder@wsu.edu).