

# Elbee Northern Wheatgrass

(*Elymus lanceolatus* ssp. *Lanceolatus*)



## Native Prairie Grass

**Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** is a Canadian certified variety of native grass developed at the Lethbridge Research Station. It is a hardy long-lived perennial that is extremely drought tolerant. **Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** is an essential native species to the grasslands of the prairies.

## Growth Habit

**Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** has a height varying from 20-80 cm (8-31 inches). However, when it becomes sod bound it sends out very few seed heads and maintains a low growth habit. **Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** has a three way root system: creeping underground rootstalks which spread and reproduce, a very shallow fibrous root system, and deep roots which penetrate to at least 60 cm (24 inches).

## Adaptation

**Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** was selected from the southeast quarter of Alberta. Northern wheatgrass is distributed throughout the prairies and British Columbia. In the U.S., northern wheatgrass extends east to Michigan, south to Colorado, and west to Illinois. **Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** is adapted to a wide range of soils but prefers the medium to coarse textured soils, especially sandy soils. It is common in both the brown and dark brown soil zones, preferring dry areas. It also withstands moderate flooding. **Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** can be grown on soils that are subject to water or wind erosion as it produces a good ground cover. It can withstand considerable alkaline conditions and moderate salinity levels.

## Reclamation Uses

**Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** provides drought tolerance and strong creeping rhizomes that bind the soil for excellent erosion control. Also, **Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** forms a smooth sod for use on non-irrigated recreational fields and airport runways. Its tolerance to soil salinity makes it suitable to seeding on canal banks and roadways. This multi-purpose grass will provide the solution to reclamation problems in dry, alkaline areas of the prairies.

## Seed Vigor & Establishment

**Elbee Northern Wheatgrass** is easy to establish. Seedling vigor will vary from fair to very good. Seed germination is 70-80%.

## Quick Facts

Growth Habit	Flooding Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Soil pH	Soil Type	Seeds/g (Seeds/lb)
Sod Forming	Moderate	Excellent	Moderate	Alkali Tolerant	Medium-Coarse sandy	370 (168,000)