

Fowl Bluegrass

(*poa palustris*)



Native Boreal Forest

Fowl Bluegrass is native to the marsh wet lands of the parkland areas of the Prairie Provinces. Not restricted to marshes, **Fowl Bluegrass** can be found anywhere in the parkland where moisture is adequate. **Fowl Bluegrass** is often harvested with Creeping Red Fescue or Red Top crops in northern Alberta. The bluegrass is separated out when the other crops are cleaned.

Growth Habit

Fowl Bluegrass is shallow rooted and non-creeping. It has a high germination with a very vigorous seedling. It invades areas easily and is competitive with slower establishing grasses.

Fowl Bluegrass is a short to medium plant growing 8 to 24 inches. The leaves are basal and the seed head is on top of a naked stock.

Adaptation

Fowl Bluegrass is native to conifer and boreal forest regions in Alberta, as well as the wetlands of the Parkland areas of the prairies. In Alberta, **Fowl Bluegrass** is found in the greywooded and moist black soils. It is found around sloughs and dugouts. However, because of its prolific seed set and seedling vigour, **Fowl Bluegrass** is an increaser seed species. It will survive in non-flooded soils where there is good moisture.

Reclamation Uses

Fowl Bluegrass is one of many water loving native grasses. It is compatible with Reed Canarygrass, ticklegrass (*Agrostis scabra*), tufted hairgrass and fescues. Generally Fowl Bluegrass will be one of the least expensive grasses in a reclamation mix with the above species.

Seed Vigor and Establishment

Fowl Bluegrass is easy to establish. It has excellent seedling vigour and germination in the 80-90% range.

Quick Facts

Growth Habit	Flooding Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Soil pH	Seed Germ	Soil Type	Seeds/lb
Bunchgrass	Excellent	Moderate	Moderate	Acidic to Neutral	Excellent	Peat soils to clay	1,800,000