

Green Needlegrass

(*Nasella viridula*)



Native Prairie Grass

Green Needlegrass is a native grass of the northern plains. At this time there are no Canadian varieties. There is a U.S. variety Lodorm, selected for better germination and less dormancy than native stands.

Growth Habit

Green Needlegrass is a medium height, tufted bunchgrass. Its height varies between 40-80 cm. It has a finely branched fibrous root system which goes to nine feet in depth or greater. **Green Needlegrass** is a long-lived perennial.

Adaptation

In Alberta, **Green Needlegrass** is adapted to the prairies and foothills in the southern half of the province.

Green Needlegrass has good drought tolerance and can be grown in areas that receive more than 12 inches of annual precipitation. It is best suited to silt or clay textured soils that are mildly acidic to alkaline. The pH range of **Green Needlegrass** is 5.5-8.0. It has only a fair tolerance of salinity and flooding. **Green Needlegrass** is intolerant of shade.

Reclamation Uses

Green Needlegrass does have good seedling vigor and will produce quicker cover than many other species. **Green Needlegrass** has good forage growth and very good palatability. This means it is well suited to the revegetation of disturbed rangeland and mine sites that will be grazed. Since it has a well-developed deep root system, **Green Needlegrass** is a good soil stabilizer.

Seedling Vigor and Establishment

Green Needlegrass seed has a dormancy factor that prevents quick germination. However it has good seedling vigor, and establishment is not difficult.

Quick Facts

| Growth Habit | Flooding Tolerance | Drought Tolerance | Shade Tolerance | Soil pH | Soil Type | Seeds/lb. |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Medium height upright tufted bunchgrass—deep rooted | Fair | Good | Fair | Acid-alkaline 5.5-8.0 | Silt-clay | 165,000- 180,000 |