

Indian Ricegrass

(*Achnatherum hymenoides*)



Native Warm Season Grass

Indian Ricegrass has been described both as a warm season and cool season grass. There is one variety selected for high elevations “Nezpar.” It was developed in Idaho. There are no Canadian varieties.

Growth Habit

Indian Ricegrass is a tufted bunchgrass of medium height. Each leaf grows out of the base of the plant so there are no stem leaves. Its height varies between 30-70cm. It has a deep, fibrous root system extending to a depth of 9 feet or more. **Indian Ricegrass** is a long-lived perennial.

Adaptation

In Alberta, **Indian Ricegrass** is adapted throughout the southern half of the province. **Indian Ricegrass** is an extremely drought tolerant species existing on as little as four inches of annual precipitation. It also has good tolerance of soil salinity. **Indian Ricegrass** is adapted to deep sandy soils, although it will grow on loamy soils as well. It prefers a neutral or alkaline soil. It is poorly adapted to flooding or high watertables and will die if subjected to these conditions. **Indian Ricegrass** is tolerant of low fertility and will do well under these conditions.

Reclamation Uses

Indian Ricegrass has good seedling vigor but does have a problem with seed dormancy so higher seeding rates are recommended. It is an excellent species for revegetating dry, infertile, sandy sites such as blowouts or dunes. Since **Indian Ricegrass** grows on extreme sites where many other grasses do not and it has a deep root system, it is a good soil builder and will stabilize slopes. It is a highly palatable grass so it can be used on rangeland.

Seed Vigor and Establishment

Indian Ricegrass has a hard seed coat and the seed can remain dormant for many years. Once germinated seedling vigor is very good, and it is easy to establish.

Quick Facts

Growth Habit	Flooding Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Shade Tolerance	Soil pH	Soil Type	Seeds/lb.
Medium height bunchgrass Deep rooted – all basal leaves	Poor	Excellent	Good	Neutral alkaline	Sandy	141,000-188,000