

Red Top

(agrostis gigantean)



Introduced Grass for Parkland Areas

Red Top is an introduced cool season grass found throughout Canada and the northern U.S.A.

Growth Habit

Red Top is a sod forming, rhizomatous species of medium height. Its height is usually between 40-80 cm. It has upright growth with stem leaves. Its root system is relatively shallow. **Red Top** is a long-lived perennial.

Adaptation

On the Prairies, **Red Top** is adapted throughout the provinces, except for the dry southeastern corner of Alberta and the dry south of Central and Southern Saskatchewan.

Red Top is a moisture loving species and requires more than 20 inches of annual precipitation. It performs best on clay or clay loam soils but will grow even on sandy sites. It has very good tolerance of acidity and will grow well on soils with a pH above 4.5. It cannot tolerate alkaline soils. **Red Top** also has a very good tolerance to flooding. **Red Top** has poor tolerance to drought and salinity.

Reclamation Uses

Red Top has good seedling vigor and will establish fairly quickly. Its best reclamation use is on wetter sites, which have acidic soil conditions.

Red Top's strong rhizomatous nature makes it a good erosion control species. Red Top has fairly low palatability, which means it can provide cover for some nesting waterfowl.

Quick Facts

Growth Habit	Flooding Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Soil pH	Soil Type	Seeds per lb.
Medium height Upright growth	Excellent	Poor	Poor	Acid-Neutral 4.5-7.0	Clay loam, Clay	5,000,000