

Western Porcupine Grass

(*Stipa curtisetata*)



Native grass

Western Porcupine grass is named due the mature awns resembling the quills of a porcupine.

Growth Habit

It is a erect, robust, perennial bunchgrass, shallow rooted, seldom extending below 1 m in depth. Spring growth starts in mid April with flowering occurring by mid June. Seeds ripen by mid July and shatter about two weeks later.

Adaptation

Common in the foothills and mountain grasslands, prairie and parkland regions, also in northern grasslands. It is an indicator of improved soil and moisture conditions. Porcupine grass is a decreaser, except in the best soil and moisture zones where it becomes an increaser. Plants are palatable for grazing except for the period between seed emergence and the seed shattering.

Reclamation

It is one of the important native grasses of the Canadian mixed prairie. This species shows a natural tendency to establish well on disturbances. Forage value of porcupine grass has good with protein content in spring as high as 20% dropping to 5% when plants cured.

Quick Facts

Growth Habit	Flooding Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Height	Seeds / lb
Erect Bunchgrass	Poor	Good	30 - 70 cm	203,000