

Canada Bluegrass

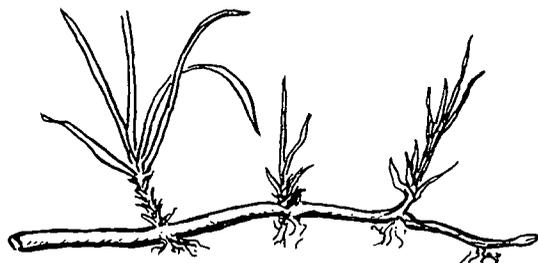
(Poa compressa)

Where does it grow? It grows best in open ground, mountain meadows, parks, stream banks, and thin scab lands at high elevations. Often it is found in shady woodland areas because it can withstand some shade. It will grow on poor, clay soils where other grasses do not do well. Best growth is made at high, cool elevations.

Is it important? Yes. It is one of the most palatable grasses on the range. All livestock like it, particularly cattle and horses. Elk and deer feed on it, too. It furnishes good feed from early spring to late summer. It rates high as a grass to reseed rundown range land on poor soils, is a popular seed for lawn mixtures in cool areas, is used as a pasture grass in parts of the United States with poor soils, and is good for erosion control. In favorable sites, other grasses usually will outyield it.

It stands up well under close use, is resistant to heavy trampling, and comes back quickly after heavy grazing.

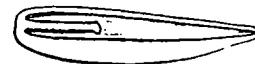
What does it look like? It is a dark, bluish-green grass and grows from about 1 to 2 feet tall depending upon the site. It is a sod-forming perennial with flattened, wiry stems, and leaves with boat-shaped tips. The leaves are short and spread mainly around the base of the plant. It may have a single seed stalk or a few close together. The stems and spikelets turn reddish when mature.



Canada bluegrass spreads by roots as well as seeds (x1).



Canada blue has leaves with ends shaped like one end of a canoe (x4).



The small grains of Canada blue are also shaped like tiny boats (x10).

Description:

Length of life -- Perennial.

Height -- Usually about 2 feet.

Bunch or sod -- Sod.

Growth period -- From early spring to late summer. Best feed in early cool season.

How does it spread? -- By seeds and by underground stems (rhizomes).

Leaf shape and location -- Leaves are short, narrow, and have boat-shaped tips. Most leaves are near the base of the plant.

Seed shape and size -- Tiny seeds shaped like little boats complete with a definite keel.

Does it look like anything else? It looks much like Kentucky bluegrass.
Here are some differences:

CANADA BLUEGRASS

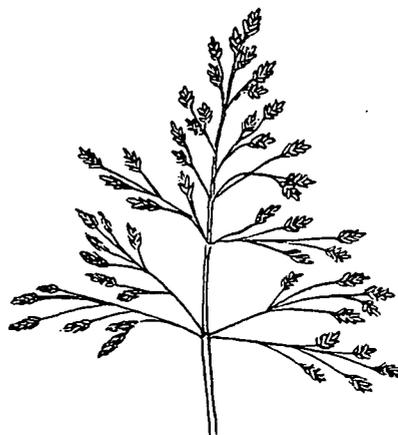
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

1. Flat leaf sheath and flat stem.
2. No hairs on seed base.
3. Tight, crowded spikelets and branches.
4. Short seed branches.
5. Most leaves at plant base. Few up on stem, tend to hug the ground.
6. Single seed stalks or few together.
7. Leaf sheaths usually shorter than space between joints.

- Flat leaf sheath, round stem.
- Hairs on seed base.
- Open spikelets and branches.
- Long seed branches at bottom of head, short on top.
- Leaves along the stem higher above ground surface than Canada.
- Usually many stalks.
- Leaf sheaths usually longer than space between joints.



Canada blue has compact seed head.



Kentucky blue has pyramid shaped seed head.