



Crop Science Report

RESEARCH/EXTENSION

Astoria Bent - Agrostis tenuis*

Economic Importance:

Astoria bent is a creeping form of Colonial bent grass. It was found growing native in fairly pure stands along the coastal area of Clatsop County in Oregon. This bent spreads vigorously by rhizomes and stolons. Astoria bent is used extensively for lawns, golf greens, and pasture purposes in eastern Oregon, and is being introduced throughout the United States. It is adapted to moist and moderately moist and rather acid soil conditions.

Vegetative Characteristics:

Astoria bent spreads vegetatively by rhizomes and stolons, with slender culms growing semi-erect, usually 15 to 50 cm. in length (Plate VII). The leaves are rolled in the bud. The blades are usually 5 to 10 cm. long, and 1 to 3 mm. wide, gradually tapering and slightly twisted, and medium to dark green in color. Auricles are absent. The ligule is membranous, thin, 1 to 2.5 mm. in length, round to obtuse in shape, finely toothed and often split. The panicle varies in length from 5 to 12 cm. with an open, delicate form. The seed is similar to Colonial bent except that it is more variable in size. Much of the seed is larger and more robust. The lemma is generally ovate-lanceolate in shape, often with a coiled awn rising from the base. The callus hairs are long and copious. The callus is variable in size and shape, tending to be small. The palea is thin and variously notched, varying in length. The caryopsis is coarser than Colonial bent, lighter in color, with a coarser hilum.

*From thesis: Hansen, LeRoy R. An Ecological and Taxonomic Study of the Root Development and the Vegetative Characters of Certain Economic Bent Grasses, *Agrostis* Species. MS Thesis. 1939. Oregon State College



Plate VII. Astoria Bent Grass (Agrostis tenuis var. astoriana). Plant x Nat., ligule x 10, spikelet, floret, and caryopsis x 30.