



Tall wheatgrass

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Tall wheatgrass

NOTE: The information in this Agnote must be read in conjunction with [Introduction to selecting and using pastures in NSW](#), which covers information on areas of adaptation, sources of variability, species mixtures, and important issues related to animal health and the conservation of native vegetation.

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| Pasture type and use | Perennial temperate grass with main growth in spring and autumn. Useful species in saline soils. Useful for making stored fodder in the form of round bales or silage. |
| Area of adaptation | All tablelands and slopes areas of NSW, Riverina, Central West Plains and irrigated areas. |
| Min. average annual rainfall | 400 mm (southern NSW) to 500 mm (northern NSW). |
| Advantages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suited to saline and poorly drained soils. |
| Disadvantages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow to establish. • If ungrazed, develops tall rank growth. • Not as salt-tolerant as puccinellia. |
| Soil requirements | Saline and poorly drained soils. |
| Varieties | Tyrrell Dundas * - selected for increased feed quality. * Denotes that this variety is protected by Plant Breeder's Rights. |
| Sowing rates: | |
| - as only species | 3–12 kg/ha |
| - in mixtures | 3–5 kg/ha |

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| Sowing time | Dryland: Sow in early autumn for best results. Irrigated or high-rainfall areas: Late winter to early spring. |
| Companion species | Compatible in mixtures with puccinellia, tall fescue, phalaris, strawberry clover, white clover. |
| Inoculation | N/A |
| Main insect pests | No significant problems. |
| Main diseases | No significant problems. |
| Management | Do not graze plant until the crown is well developed. Ideally, keep plants short to stop plants developing tall rank growth, which becomes unpalatable to livestock. |
| Livestock disorders of particular note | No problems reported. |
| Further information | Dryland Salinity 4. 'Productive use of salt affected land', Salt Action Program. Saltland Pastures in Australia - A practical guide, EG Barrett-Lennard & CV Malcolm, WA Department of Agriculture, 1995. |

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Photo: Warren McDonald, Former Technical Specialist (Pastures), NSW Agriculture, Tamworth

- [Pasture species & varieties](#)
 - [A-Z listing of all pasture species, types and varieties](#)
 - [Introduction to selecting and using pastures in NSW](#)
 - [Temperate grasses](#)
 - [Tropical grasses](#)
 - [Temperate legumes](#)
 - [Tropical legumes](#)
 - [Miscellaneous pasture herbs](#)
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