

The UP Native Plant Program will have a western Colorado source of

Sandberg Bluegrass **(*Poa secunda*)**

available for purchase beginning in summer 2009

Facts about Sandberg bluegrass:

- Early perennial bunchgrass
- Grows at elevations of 4,000 to 12,000 ft
- Occurs on a wide range of soil types
- Early spring producer
- Principle native grass for the Colorado Plateau region
- Performs well in seed mixes
- Successfully seeded by drill or broadcast
- Competes well with cheatgrass
- The full wildland seeding rate is 2.0 lb/ac PLS, but this species would normally be included in native seed mixtures at a rate of 1/4 to 1/2 lb/ac PLS.



Sheri Hagwood @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Background

'UP Colorado Plateau' Sandberg bluegrass originated on the Uncompahgre Plateau located in western Colorado. This release is a product of the UP Native Plant Program. 'UP Colorado Plateau' was selected for commercial production based on its growth, flower and seed formation, seed production, forage quantity and seed quality attributes. In a three-year study comparing 12 different Sandberg bluegrass accessions, 'UP Colorado Plateau' was rated superior to all others, including the two known commercially available cultivars: Canby bluegrass and High Plains.

Characteristics of the 'UP Colorado Plateau' collection site:

- Elevation: 6986 ft.
- Soils: 50% Barboncito and similar soils, 45% Gampesa and similar soils, 5% minor components.
- Annual mean precipitation: 10 to 12 inches



The UP Native Plant Program is currently working to commercially produce 'UP Colorado Plateau'. It is estimated that over 10,000 pounds will be available for purchase by land management agencies beginning in summer 2009.

If you would like more information, contact us at: upproject@upproject.org.