

Feral rye

Triticaceae

*Secale
cereale*


Origin: Northern Europe and Russia. Grown widely throughout North America

Description: 6 to 40 inches tall (usually 24 inches) winter annual grass sometimes called “poverty grain” and also known as annual, common or cereal rye. A major contaminate in wheat fields, it can reduce yields by 14 to 33%

Color: Blue-green leaf blades turning to light tan at maturity

Roots: Branching near the surface of the soil and can grow 4 to 6 feet deep

Stems/Culm: Erect. Typically 24 inches tall

Leaves: Wide and flat blue-green leaf blades with open sheaths having a varying amount of hairs to nearly smooth

Flowers: Dense spike 3 to 5 inches long with spikelets that are awned. Individual spikes will flower for up to five days allowing time for wind pollination. May thru August

Seeds: 600 to 800 seeds per plant. Seeds germinate in fall or spring when soil temperatures range between 55-60°F. Seedlings will overwinter if they germinate in the fall

Viability: Normally 1 to 2 years, but up to 10 years for 1 to 2% of seeds

Toxicity: None

Lookalikes: Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*)
Wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*)



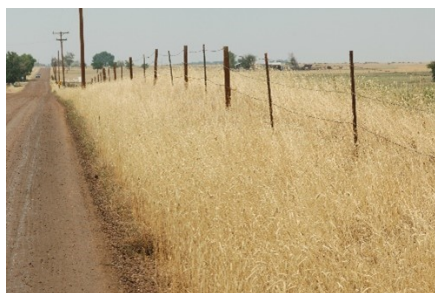
Feral rye is widely distributed because it has been used as a cover crop and as forage in hay, pastures and range. It has been included in wildlife and soil conservation seed mixes.

Feral rye can tolerate colder conditions better than any other cereal, grow in almost any soil type and readily adapts to varying precipitation. Feral rye seedling development is rapid providing an advantage over other grasses, at whatever time of the year it germinates.

Feral rye can readily become established on open rangeland, waste places, roadsides and crops lands. It can easily form a monoculture that out competes and prevents other vegetation from establishing.

On the backside of this sheet are feral rye management recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact the Weld County Public Works Dept., Weed Division at (970) 400-3770 or visit <https://www.weldweeds.org>



Recommended range and pasture management methods:

Cultural

Establishment of selected, aggressive grasses can be an effective cultural control.

Contact your local CSU Extension office or Natural Resources Conservation Service office (NRCS) for seed mix recommendations.

Good grazing management will stimulate grass growth and keep pastures healthy. Healthy pastures may be more resistant to invasion. Bare spots caused by overgrazing are prime habitat for weed infestations.

Mechanical

Fire, mowing, grazing, tillage, and inter-seeding competitive species have all shown promise in reducing cheatgrass populations. Long lasting control requires a combination of chemical, physical, vegetative suppression and proper livestock management.

Biological

Biological control is limited. But there is no long-term biocontrol agent available.

Herbicides

The following recommendations can be applied to range and pasturelands.

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Application Timing</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Plateau or Panoramic 2 SL (imazapic)	8 oz/acre	Fall application as an early post-emergent treatment prior to a hard freeze is optimum for control.	Provides approximately 60% continued control 10-14 months after treatment. A 12 oz rate may cause injury to some cool season grasses. Use a methylated seed oil surfactant (MSO) at 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Glyphosate Non-selective 41% concentrate min.	16 to 24 oz/acre	Apply in fall or early spring when other grasses are dormant.	Use caution when applying near grasses or other desirable vegetation. <i>No residual control provided.</i> Add a non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Laramie 25DF (rimsulfuron) and Rejuvra (indaziflam)	4 oz/acre and 5 oz/acre	Early post-emergent option around October with continued pre-emergent control.	Provides approximately 85-100% control 10-14 months after treatment. Add a MSO surfactant @ 0.32oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Rejuvra or Esplanade 200SC (indaziflam)	5 oz/acre	A pre-emergent chemical. Apply from June to August depending on the year.	Provides approximately 85-100% control 10-14 months after treatment. Can be tank mixed with Plateau or Panoramic in the fall if rye has germinated. Add Glyphosate if treating October to March. Add an MSO surfactant @ 0.32oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.

ALWAYS READ, UNDERSTAND, AND FOLLOW HERBICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS

The herbicide label is the LAW