



BARLEY

Hordeum vulgare (*Hordeum* - from the Latin name for barley; *vulgare* means common)

Why it Was Chosen to Reseed Wildfire Burned Areas:

- Barley seedlings are vigorous and perform well on disturbed areas and most soils including those with alkali and saline conditions.
- Barley establishes quickly and adjusts its growth and tillering to moisture and fertility. Its fibrous root system effectively stabilizes soils.
- Barley will not persist after the second season.

How Much to Use:

On wildfire burn areas, use a broadcast seeding rate of 125 pounds per acre (29 pounds for a 10,000 square foot area). In seed mixes containing another grass or a legume, the rate can be cut to 90 pounds per acre (21 pounds for a 10,000 square foot area) to reduce initial competition with other species.

Other Uses in California:

Barley is primarily grown as a feed grain for animal consumption and for malting for beer production. It is also used by wildlife agencies to provide food for migrating waterfowl.

Background:

As an annual, it is a fast starter and will have a large presence the first year. It is meant to provide first-year stabilization.

Insights for Homeowners:

It can be mowed to 3 - 4 inches high after maturity for fire hazard control.

Barley is a good choice when new landscaping is planned for the following season since only a few volunteer plants are expected the second year.

Several short-stemmed varieties are available and should have preference.

What it Looks Like



Winter annual cereal grain that grows up to 30 inches with upright leaves and seedheads.

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