

Crested Wheat Grass

Agropyron pectiniforme

Common name: Crested Wheat Grass

Scientific name: *Agropyron pectiniforme*

Family: Poaceae

Description

Crested Wheat Grass is long lived (15 to 20 years), drought and fire tolerant and has an extensive root system. It spreads primarily via seed but may also spread via rhizomes. The flower spikes are flattened.

Range in Yukon

Widespread agronomic species commonly used in seeding projects. Found throughout Yukon. It may become invasive in native habitats.

Similar Species

Crested Wheat Grass resembles the native wild rye (*Elymus* spp.) but their seeds are arranged like a comb (pectinate) along the stem.



Photo: Stefan Gottermann, YG

Ecological Impact

It may form monospecific stands and inhibit growth of native species.

Control

Crested Wheat Grass is highly competitive and therefore needs to be controlled quickly to prevent negative impact on native species. Control is a long-term process. As a perennial, when clumps of plants are removed, even small pieces of the root system are capable of regenerating into new plants. Put plants into clear garbage bags and then leave them in the sun to kill off the plants and roast the seeds.