

Toe Jam Creek Germplasm

Bottlebrush squirreltail

Elymus elymoides ssp. californicus

Plant Overview



Bottlebrush squirreltail is an important early-seral grass that is utilized for rangeland restoration. The *californicus* subspecies can be found in montane habitats from British

Columbia to California and east to Nevada, central Idaho, northern Utah, northwestern Wyoming, and southwestern Montana. Bottlebrush squirreltail is predominately self-pollinated, but when it coexists with bluebunch wheatgrass, sterile hybrid plants are not uncommon. The seed of *ssp. californicus* squirreltail is larger than the more common *ssp. elymoides* bottlebrush squirreltail, but the general appearance and stature of these two squirreltails is similar. Like the other squirreltails, *ssp. californicus* is susceptible to seed shattering.

Toe Jam Creek was released in 2003 as a selected pre-variety germplasm (natural track). Participating in the release were the USDA-ARS, the Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USDI-Bureau of Land Management. Toe Jam Creek was collected in northwestern Elko County, Nevada, about eight miles west of the town of Tuscarora. Elevation at the collection site was 6,000 ft., and average annual precipitation at Tuscarora is 12 inches. Toe Jam Creek's intended area of use is the northern Great Basin and the lower Snake River Plain of the western U.S.



Toe Jam Creek in replicated trial (Beaver, Utah)



Seed production field

Plant Benefits

- **HIGH SEED WEIGHT**
- **ENHANCED SEEDLING VIGOR**
- **ABUNDANT SEED YIELDS**
- **POPULAR IN RESTORATION SEED MIXES**

To order seed:

Check with local seed companies to determine availability or call the Utah Crop Improvement Association (435-797-2082; stanford.young@usu.edu) to find commercial seed growers. Early generation seed is maintained by the USDA-ARS-FRRL at Logan, UT. Stock seed is available through Utah Crop Improvement Association.

