

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Elymus canadensis* – Canada Wild Rye**

COMMON NAME: Canada Wild Rye

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Elymus canadensis* – *Elymus* comes from a kind of Greek grain

FLOWER: Not very conspicuous

BLOOMING PERIOD: mid-July to mid-August

SIZE: Three feet to over six feet tall

BEHAVIOR: This grass usually occurs in large clumps. It is often the first grass to grow in newly disturbed sites and declines as other grasses mature. It reseeds easily and may form a flowering spike the same season.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sunlight. Tolerates a fairly wide range of moisture conditions.

NATURAL RANGE: This grass is native to most of Canada and the U.S. except for arctic regions and the Gulf states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia. In Wisconsin it is common in oak openings, on lakeshores, sand dunes and riverbeds.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This grass has a long nodding spike about 5-9 inches long that resembles cultivated rye. The stiff, bristle-like awns are spreading and curve outward as they mature.

SUGGESTED CARE: Not much attention is needed. It should be moved to another location every few years.

COMPANION PLANTS: Big bluestem grass, cord grass, big toothed sunflower, prairie rose