POACEAE (GRAMINEAE) Festucae

*Festuca idahoensis* Elmer

Idaho fescue

**FORM:** Erect, cool season, perennial bunchgrass, with fibrous, nonrhizomatous roots, 3-10 dm (1-3 ft) tall.

**LEAVES:** Numerous, mostly basal and erect, 5-12 cm (2-5 in) long, tightly involuted, less than 1.5 mm broad, green to blue-green; open sheaths; without true auricles; small ciliolate ligules (1), higher on edges than center; late May-July.

**INFLORESCENCE:** Narrow panicle, with erect branches 10-20 cm (4-8 in) long, one to several spikelets per branch with 5-7 florets per spikelet, glumes of unequal length, lemma with stout, short awn (2), 2-5 mm long.

**ENEMIES:** Fire: susceptible to moderately resistant, depending on season of burn, regeneration from seed to reburn levels within 5-10 years.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** *Festuca occidentalis*, p. 211, *Festuca scabrella* (rough fescue); and *Festuca rubra* (red fescue).