and heavy-textured soils [Sheridan, WY; Wyarso clay loam (fine, smectitic, mesic Ustollic Haplargids)] than ‘Paloma’ or ‘Nezpar’. Its intended uses are for revegetation, reclamation, and restoration of rangelands; winter forage for livestock and wildlife; and seed production for consumption by wild birds, particularly doves (Columbidae).

Rimrock was released primarily because of its ability to retain mature seed better than Paloma or Nezpar (2,3). Rimrock’s superior seed retention is attributed to its more acute angle between the glumes, a morphological trait under genetic control. Glume pair angle of Rimrock florets (44°) was two-thirds that of Paloma glumes (66°) (2). Days from glume opening to shattering were 91% greater for Rimrock than Paloma (6.7 vs. 3.5 d). In contrast to Paloma, many Rimrock florets produced a filled seed without ever opening their glumes. Seed retention index (g seed g⁻¹ forage dry wt.) on 15 September was much greater for Rimrock (0.45) than for Nezpar (0.19) or Paloma (0.11).

Rimrock can be distinguished from Paloma by its smaller seed mass and from Nezpar by its more globose (less elongate) seed shape (2,4). Seeds of Rimrock and Paloma are both globose (2). Rimrock and Nezpar seeds are smaller and lighter than those of Paloma (2,4). Indian ricegrass is a predominately self-pollinating species.

Breeder seed of Rimrock will be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center at Bridger, MT. Seed classes of Rimrock will be breeder, foundation, registered, and certified. Small quantities of Rimrock seed will be provided by the Plant Materials Center upon request. Rimrock will not be submitted for U.S. plant variety protection.

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References and Notes