



2020-105: Identification of genetic factors contributing to abiotic stress tolerance in intermediate wheatgrass

Researcher: Sean Asselin

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Intermediate Wheatgrass is a preferred feed for livestock, which is also drought resistant and can more easily adapt in sandy soils. However, new cultivars have not been bred at AAFC Swift Current for decades.

New breeding technologies which take advantage of genome mapping techniques have made an intermediate wheatgrass breeding program more advantageous. Sean Asselin and his research team will ID and validate sources of drought/salt tolerance in intermediate wheatgrass. They will then map the genes of wheatgrass with improved tolerance, and identify parts of that genome that shows significant association with drought tolerance.