# **Purple Needlegrass**

## W-NAPU-0.25-LB

## Stipa (Nassella) pulchra

**What Is The? ( Seo Description 100-200 Words):** Purple Needlegrass (Stipa pulchra), California’s state grass, is a tough perennial bunchgrass with deep roots and high ecological value. Forming graceful clumps 1–3 feet tall, it produces slender purple-tinged flowering stalks in spring. Highly drought-tolerant, it survives hot dry summers by going dormant and regreens with fall rains. It adapts to many soils—including heavy clays and serpentine—and its extensive roots help prevent erosion. In native prairies, it provides forage in winter/spring and critical wildlife habitat. A cornerstone of California restoration projects, it’s ideal for revegetating hillsides and creating authentic low-water landscapes.

## **Growing Conditions**

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| **Sun Requirements (full Sun, Full Sun To Partial Shade, Shade)** | Full Sun to Partial Shade |
| **Soil Preference** | From sandy to heavy clay and serpentine; tolerates droughty and alkaline sites |
| **Soil Ph** | Adaptable (slightly acidic to alkaline) |
| **Days To Maturity** | Perennial; reaches mature size in ~1–2 years |
| **Height When Mature** | 1–3 ft foliage; ~3 ft with flowering stalks |
| **Seeding Rate** | ~10 lbs/acre drilled; 15–20 lbs/acre broadcast |
| **Planting Depth** | 1/4–1/2 inch |

### Superb Drought Resilience

Very deep roots access moisture and ensure survival in extreme drought.

### Erosion Control

Dense root system binds soil—excellent for stabilizing slopes.

### Native Habitat Value

Provides cover and forage; foundational species in CA grasslands.

### Adaptable & Hardy

Thrives in sun/partial shade and many soil types; fire-tolerant and long-lived.

### Restoration Essential

Widely used in ecological restoration for reliability and significance.

## **Plant Characteristics**

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| **Sun / Shade** | Full Sun to Partial Shade |
| **Height When Mature** | 1–3 ft foliage; ~3 ft with seed stalks |
| **Seeding Rate** | ~10 lbs/acre (drilled); 15–20 lbs/acre (broadcast) |
| **Uses** | Grassland restoration, erosion control, wildlife habitat, low-water landscaping |
| **Color** | Green foliage; purple-tinged seed heads in spring |
| **Water** | Very Low—winter rain; summer dormant |
| **Native / Introduced** | Native to California |
| **Life Form** | Perennial bunchgrass |