

Survey of 2020 National Open (NOC) Grounds

Clarkston, Utah

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Background:

Among the field trial community and particularly among the spaniel breeds there has been a significant increase in morbidity and mortality related to ingestion, inhalation, and other exposures from grasses with barbed awns. Numerous articles in the veterinary literature describe the awn migration process and the associated disease burden this has caused the spaniels and their owners. The species that are most commonly cited in the literature include foxtail (*Hordeum jubatum*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*). The purpose of this survey is to identify the common grasses on the grounds for the 2020 English Springer Spaniel National Open Field Trial.

Survey Results:

The survey was completed on October 22, 2020. The table below lists the most common species present. The three sites visited contained similar grasses and shrubs. *Bromus tectorum* (cheatgrass) was present in small quantities at all sites. The seeds were no longer present on the plants. The risk of exposure at the three sites was determined to be minimal.

Table 1: Common vegetation at the 2020 NOC Grounds

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Agropyron Smithii</i>	Western wheat grass
<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch wheatgrass
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Common wild oat
<i>Asclepias Spp.</i>	Milkweed
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Blue Wild Rye
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rabbit Brush

Disclaimer:

This document is provided to assist each handler and/or owner participating in the 2020 NOC. Each individual should educate themselves regarding the dangers to their spaniels on the 2020 NOC grounds after reviewing this report. Decisions and liability for each spaniel are the sole responsibility of the handler and/or owner and neither the author of this document nor the committee that commissioned it can guarantee the safety of any individual spaniel on the trial grounds.

References:

https://images.akc.org/pdf/events/performance/mean_seeds_project.pdf

<http://www.meanseeds.com/>

<http://www.meanseeds.com/resources/the-bad-grass-list/>