

Survey of the 2022 National Amateur (NAC) Grounds

Clarkston, Utah

October 5, 2022

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Background:

Among the field trial community and particularly among the spaniel breeds there has been a significant morbidity and mortality related to ingestion, inhalation, and exposures from grasses with barbed awns. Numerous articles in the veterinary literature describe the 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*).

Purpose:

The purpose of this survey is to identify the common grasses on the grounds for the 2022 English Springer Spaniel National Amateur Field Trial.

Survey Results:

The survey was completed on October 5, 2022. The following table lists the most common species present. The seven sites visited contained similar grasses and shrubs. *Bromus tectorum* (cheatgrass) was not detected during this survey but may be present in small quantities at all sites. The risk of exposure at the three sites was determined to be minimal.

Table 1: Common vegetation at the 2022 NOC Grounds

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

Disclaimer:

This document is provided to assist each handler and/or owner participating in the 2022 NAC. Each individual should educate themselves regarding the dangers to their spaniels on the 2022 NAC 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/>