

SAND BLUESTEM

Andropogon hallii



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to U.S. along the eastern edge of the Great Plains from North Dakota to eastern Texas. Sand bluestem is very similar to big bluestem and distinguished by conspicuous hairs on panicle, shorter awns, bluer foliage (not as reddish or reddish purple), strongly rhizomes and greater lateral spread. Sand bluestem is a warm season, long-lived, perennial sod grass.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Similar to big bluestem except used more in conservation of sandy soils and sites than for other purposes. Adapted to sandhills and sand prairies in the Great Plains. Has deep roots, short rhizomes, and some lateral spread.

CULTURE

Similar to big bluestem. Drill 1/4 - 1" deep on fine to moderately coarse soils to 1 1/2" in sand. Cover broadcast seed shallow. Plant 8 to 16 lbs. PLS per acre 50 - 100% more on erosive sites or broadcasting. Seed in non-volunteering crop stubble for better stands on erosive sites, 'seed hay', seeding is often feasible and can be sod transplanted on critical sites. Seed March-April in southern and April-May in northern Great Plains. Can be seeded in winter but may get erratic stands. Several options of controlling weeds in new seedings-herbicides, controlled grazing and mowing.

Consider seed hay and sod transplant methods of establishment for critically disturbed sites. Protect from grazing.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Valuable on deep sandy soils from central Northeast into eastern Colorado and south into New Mexico and Oklahoma. Used in protecting highly eroded areas and to some extent for hay and grazing. Often seeded in mixtures to revegetate and reclaim disturbed sandy sites, including "blowouts" in dunes. Used for forage, landscaping, prairie chicken and wildlife cover. Graze established stands moderately leaving at least 6" stubble in summer. Late spring burning will remove old herbage and make for more uniform new growth.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Cherry'.

'Elida' released from New Mexico.

'Garden' released from Nebraska.

'Woodward' released from Kansas and Oklahoma.

'Goldstrike' released from Nebraska.