

SAND DROPSEED

Sporobolus cryptandrus



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native warm-season perennial bunchgrass, 2 to 3' tall, with leaves fairly numerous and 4 to 12" long. Open, finely branched, paniced seed head may stay in a stem-like roll until seed matures. Then the seed is cast out, thus its name 'dropseed'. Roots coarse, fibrous and penetrating. Occurs abundantly on sandy open sites in Southern Plains and Southwest. Widely distributed elsewhere in U.S.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to dry sandy sites. Invades open, denuded soil and most prevalent on sandy soil. Produces a rather large amount of forage highly

palatable when young and green but becomes somewhat wiry as it matures. A prolific seed producer but very small size (5 million seed per lb.) Usually planted in mixtures for revegetation cover.

CULTURE

Plant seed on the surface or no more than 1/4" deep. May use cultipacker too cover. However, do not cover to deep. Use 0.2 to 1 lb. PLS per acre for pure stands, but much less in mixture. Plant in non-volunteering stubble as sorghum stubble or mulching may be desired along with light irrigation if available. Plant into basins or furrows may result in better stands. Seed germinates rapidly with moisture and at 70 to 80° F. temperatures.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for hay and grazing if utilized when plants are green. Also, it's wide spread occurrence has encouraged its use in revegetative work such as soil conservation, mine reclamation, disturbed sites stabilization, etc. Graze early to utilize early spring growth before more palatable species become available. Medium palatability early, and fair to poor later and in winter. Sand dropseed increases under heavy grazing. Do not over graze. Manage to maintain all species present in mixtures.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Borden County' released from Texas.



Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

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