

CAUCASIAN BLUESTEM

Bothriochloa caucasicus



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from U.S.S.R. Medium-sized, warm season bunchgrass. Mostly erect, 24" tall without rhizomes or stolons. Light green narrow leaf blades. Foliage turns reddish-brown when mature. Inflorescence dark reddish. Contrastingly different to yellow bluestems and Old World bluestem (*Bothriochloa intermedia*).

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Adapted to moderately fertile, loamy and clayey textured soils, but not too good on less produc-

tive sandy and clayey eroded soils. Winter hardy from east central Colorado and northern Kansas throughout the southern Great Plains on suitable sites and on to South Texas. Adapted to 16 to 30" ppt. areas with 20" most optimal. Stays green through seasonal drought. Tolerant of weakly saline soils and grown on weakly basic to weakly acid soils. Good fire tolerance in dormant state.

CULTURE

Drill seed 1/4 - 1/2" deep or cover shallow if broadcast seeded. Needs firm seedbed. Plant March 15 - May 15, drill seed 3 to 7 lbs. PLS per acre on non-irrigated areas. May need more seed on broadcast or harsh sites where immediate dense cover is desired or needed. Drilling into non-volunteering crop stubble or using supplemental mulch will improve stand establishments. Adapts to row crop culture, fertilization and management similar to lovegrasses.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used to limited extent in central and southern Great Plains for range and pasture, and for soil conservation of eroding fields and roadsides. Provides dense foliage for good upland bird cover. Moderately close grazing recommended on established stands to maintain usable herbage quality and good livestock performance. Not too desirable in some mixtures because of lower palatability. Responds well to fertilization. Needs intensive management to sustain high production. Good fire tolerance in dormant state.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'KG-40' tested from Kansas.

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