

GALLETA

Pleuraphis jamesii



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to dry deserts of the southwestern U.S. Found from Wyoming and Nevada, south to California and east to the Great Plains. Short to medium-sized, warm season, bunchy sod-former. Culms 1 to 2' tall, leafy based, hairy at nodes; stout roots, short, scaly and woody rhizomes. Short, pale blue-green leaves before maturity. One to 3" spike head purplish before maturity.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on silty and clayey soils in southwestern Great Plains and also nearly as thrifty on some

well-drained soils and fractured rocklands in Colorado Plateau region. Tolerant of moderately saline and alkaline soils. Survives on cold and warm desert sites with 9 to 16" ppt. May start growth with available moisture in spring and matures one seed crop in June and second in August to October. Regrowth volume is moderate with good summer rainfall. Occurs naturally from 4,000 to 8,000' elevation. Extremely drought-resistant, cold-tolerant, and winter-hardy with weak shade tolerance. Moderate fire tolerance and strong grazing resistance, but should not be grazed too closely.

CULTURE

Drill seed at 1/2" depth on fine-textured soils up to 1" on coarse soils or drier seedbeds with special drill equipped to handle chaffy seed. May broadcast seed and cover at about same depths. Seed in furrows, basins or pits using deep furrow drills and may aid in stand establishment on drier sites. Plant 2 to 10 lbs. PLS per acre. May be planted early, from time soil temperatures are warm enough and soil moisture is available, probably from May 15 to July 15. Mulch or clean stubble is very helpful for stand establishment. Surface should be moist for first two-week period. New seedlings may need weed control and should not be grazed the first growing season.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for mined land reclamation, roads, and rangelands on heavy, dry saline soils. Native stands are grazed by cattle, sheep and bison. May be grazed moderately year around or more heavily under a planned rotation system. Species sometimes used in mixtures for forage and soil stabilization purposes where it is naturally a primary grass.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Viva' released from New Mexico and Colorado.



Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

PawneeButtesSeed.com 1-800-782-5947