

# BLACK GRAMA

*Bouteloua eriopoda*



## ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native warm season, sod-forming grass of arid and semiarid deserts grasslands in New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Texas. Culms, in contact with soil, will root at nodes under favorable conditions to form new plants (stoloniferous). Culms 12 to 22" tall with gray-green basal leaves. Leaves are 1 to 5" long.

## GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Best adapted to mesa and hills, dry open ground at 2,000 to 7,000' elevation. Commonly on shallow sandy sites. Tolerant of saline soils. Rarely seen on even weakly acid soils. Very drought-tolerant, has the ability to become semi-dormant and make quick recovery when moisture comes. Has good winter hardiness.

## CULTURE

Drill seed (with special grass drill) 1/4 – 1/2' deep on firm seedbed or broadcast about same depth. Better establishment in standing mulch stubble or mulch cover. Needs surface moisture during first 3 weeks of establishment. Plant 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per acre. Plant April to mid May in central Great Plains, slightly earlier in southern Great Plains and June 15 to July 15 in Southwest. Often seeded in winter months with emergence in the spring when soil temperatures rise. Control weeds and protect from grazing until plants well-rooted and produced seed heads.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for pasture and range revegetation. Also widely used over much of the Southwest and southern Great Plains area for reseeding disturbed or go-back cropland. Excellent palatability and feed value both summer and winter. Heavy summer grazing often prevents reproduction by tillers and stolons.

Native stands may be grazed continuously all summer or all year long if not overgrazed. Highly nutritional, even when dormant in wintertime. Rotational grazing should be practiced to maintain or restore range to optimal production. When black grama is grazed properly, associated plants will also grow well.

## IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Nogal' released from New Mexico.

'Sonora' released from Arizona.

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