

YELLOW INDIANGRASS

Sorghastrum nutans



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to approximately eastern two-thirds of U.S. including the Great Plains states. Warm season, bunching, sod-former. Culms 3 to 5' tall. Wide leaves up to 24" long and panicle-type head, semi-dense 6 to 12" long. Golden brown to golden.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on deep moist soils, from clay to coarse sandy textures. Tolerant of moderate salinity and moderate acidity. Fair drought tolerance. Tolerates some flooding, underground water tables, imperfect drainage. Is winter-hardy, adapted from near sea level to 7000' elevation. Can stand some shade. Starts growth in late spring and matures in late summer or early fall.

CULTURE

Plant seeds 1/4 – 3/4" deep in firm seedbed. Seed 4.5 to 10 Lbs. PLS per acre. Time of seeding varies with region but should be approximately January to April on southern Great Plains, and a month or so later in the northern Great Plains. Plant in stubble or mulch. Germination time is approximately 28 days after planting. Better stands in areas of high wind erosions if planted in sorghum or sudan stubble. Irrigation and/or supplemental mulching may be beneficial to establish stands. Weed control maybe necessary by cutting or herbicides. Protect new seedlings from grazing until plants are well established.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used in mixtures for graze forage and hay production. Often in pure stands or in mixtures with bluestems, switchgrass and/or partridge peas, or other legumes. Manage to give periodic rest during growing season, also periodic burning of accumulating litter. Very palatable in summer. Tolerates winter grazing but not as palatable. Responds well to additional supplemental irrigation.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

- 'Cheyenne' released from Oklahoma and Texas.
- 'Holt' released from Nebraska.
- 'Llano' released from New Mexico.
- 'Nebraska 54' released from Nebraska.
- 'Osage' released from Kansas.
- 'Tejas' released from Texas.
- 'Lometa' released from Texas.
- 'Tomahawk' released from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.
- 'Oto', released from Nebraska.



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