

SAND LOVEGRASS

Eragrostis trichodes



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native warm-season, short-lived perennial bunchgrass. Occurs on sandy soils of central and southern Great Plains. Densely tufted with stalks 2 to 5' tall, abundant basal leaves 1 to 2' long. Elongated, open, purplish panicle-type inflorescence, 6 to 10" long. Deep fibrous roots and good drought resistance.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Grows principally on deep sands and sandy loam soils. Starts growing early in the spring and remains green until fall. Flowers in late spring and again in late summer or fall. Good

regrowth with adequate soil moisture. Does well on fertile sandy to silty textured soils in warm temperate to subtropical subhumid climates. Will grow on coarse sandy or clayey soils of lower fertility. Better performance in 20 to 40" ppt. areas, but will grow well in 14 to 20" ppt.

CULTURE

Drill seed 1/2" deep on sandy and loam soils, 1/4" deep on heavier textured soils. Better stands in areas of high wind erosion if planted in sorghum or sudan stubble. Use pits, basing, or furrows in more arid areas of Southwest. Irrigation and/or supplemental mulching may be beneficial to establish stands. Good seedling vigor. Seeding rate is 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per acre. Time of seeding varies with region but should be seeded approximately one month before the most favorable moisture and temperature for quick germination. February in South and as late as June in the northern limits of adaptation. Seedlings need to be protected from weeds and insects.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Primarily used for grazing by livestock and sometimes cut for hay. Included in mixtures for quick ground cover on disturbed, burned-out and sandy areas. Palatability for livestock is fair, cures well on the stem and can provide good fall and winter forage if grazing is deferred during the summer.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Bend' released from Kansas.

'Mason' released from Texas.

'Nebraska 27' released from Nebraska.

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