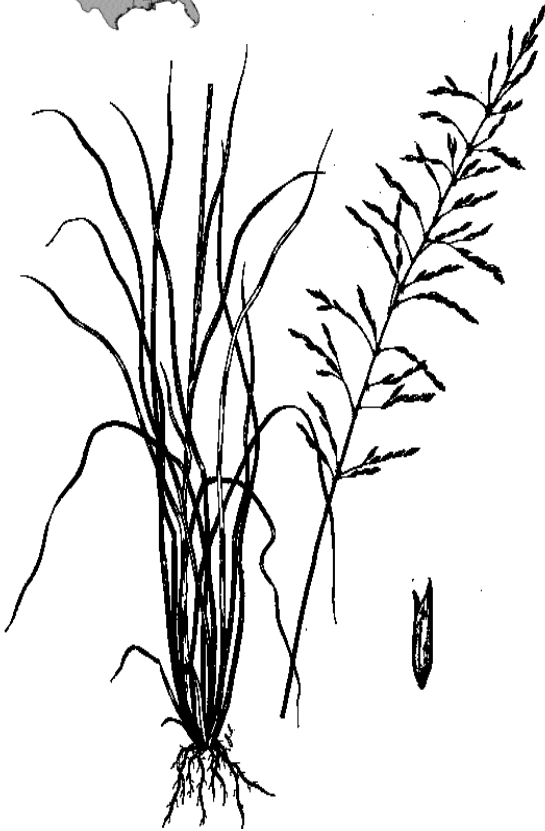


WEeping LOVEGRASS

Eragrostis curvula



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from South and East Africa. Warm-season, medium sized perennial bunchgrass. Densely tufted with stalks 2 to 4' tall, abundant drooping (weeping) basal leaves 1 to 2' long. Elongated, panicle type inflorescence, 10 to 16" long. Extensive fibrous root system.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Starts growth earlier and matures earlier in the summer than most native warm season grasses. Flowers in late spring and again in late summer or fall. Good regrowth with adequate soil moisture. Does well on fertile sandy to silty texture soils in warm temperate to subtropical, subhumid climates. But will grow on coarse sandy or

clayey soils of lower fertility. Better performance in 20 to 40" ppt. areas, but grows well in 15 to 20" ppt. and less. Tolerant of alkaline and highly acid soils. Sensitive to cold and not adapted to areas of minimum mean temperature below 5° F. Grows from sea level to 7,000' elevation in the Southwest. Tolerant of burning in dormant state or at start of growth in early spring. Moderate shade tolerance.

CULTURE

Drill seed 1/4 - 1/2" deep on most soils conditions. Better stands obtained in areas of high wind erosions by seeding in close stands of sorghum or sudan stubble. Seed in pits, basins or furrows in more arid areas of Southwest. Irrigation and/or supplemental mulching may be beneficial to establish stands. Seeding rate 1 to 2 lbs. per acre. Time of seeding varies with region but should be seeded approximately one month before the most favorable temperature and rainfall for quick germination. February in South and as late as June in the northern limits of adaptation.

Protect from grazing until plants are well rooted.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Primarily use for soil conservation purposes. Ground cover on bare, disturbed, and burned out areas, drainage ways, and erosion control on man-made disturbances such as roadsides, drainage ditches, dikes and areas around airports. Also used for pasture and hay, usually in pure stands. Seedlings need to be protected from weeds and insects. Palatability for livestock fair if grazed early before herbage is six weeks old.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

- 'Catalina' released from Arizona.
- 'Ermelo' released from Oklahoma.
- 'Morpa' released from Oklahoma.
- 'OTA-S' released from Oklahoma.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

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