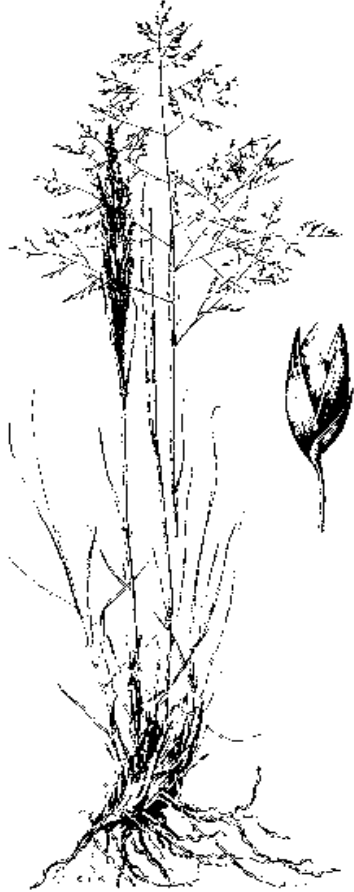


ALKALI SACATON

Sporobolus airoides



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to western U.S. Stout, coarse-leaved, warm-season bunchgrass. Found from Washington and South Dakota south into Mexico. Stalks 1 to 3' tall from large clumps. Makes an open, hummocky sod but lacking true rhizomes. Base covered by shiny, cream-colored sheaths. Leaf sheaths hairy at summit. Open panicle up to 18" long and spike late not awned.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on deep, moist sub-irrigated, sandy to clayey soils in 12 to 18" ppt. zones. Does well

in 8 to 12" ppt. zones especially in lowland sub-irrigated sites. Tolerant of saline and alkali clay soils. Deep densely fibrous root system resistant to erosion. Starts growth mid to late spring or after summer rains in southwest and matures from summer to fall. Fair shade tolerance. Good tolerance of grazing. Moderate fire tolerance. Responds well to irrigation.

CULTURE

Drill seed shallow, 1/4" deep. Cover broadcast seed to same depth or use cultipacker. Minimum of 0.5 to 1.4 lbs PLS per acre for rangeland and pastures. Increase 50 - 100% if broadcast and erosive sites. Plant seed after soil temperatures are up to 70 to 80° F., especially in disturbed conditions and with the good chance for moisture about 15 days after sowing. Need continuously moist soils during the first 2 to 3 weeks for good establishment. Sometime beneficial on dryland seedings to use pits, basins or furrows that contain moisture. Control weeds in new stands and withhold grazing until stands established.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for hay, grazing, conservation of eroded soils or mine land reclamation. Sometimes used in mixtures with western wheatgrass or switchgrass. Rotation grazing to maintain approximately 4" stubble. Most nutritious in late spring and summer. Cut for hay in early heading state for best quality. Drag meadows annually to help level lumps for ease of mowing and irrigation. Medium palatability in spring and fair after curing in winter.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

- 'Wilcox' from southern Arizona.
- 'Salado' released from New Mexico.
- 'Saltalk' release from Texas and Oklahoma.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

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