

PRAIRIE SANDREED

Calamovilfa longifolia



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native of Great Plains and adjacent areas. Coarse, stemmy, warm-season, open sod-former. Grows 2 to 5' tall, stout, scaley, spreading rhizomes. Leaves cauline, pale green to straw colored. Coarsely fibrous root system with rhizomes and effective at sand binding. Large panicle head 6 to 14" long.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Prefers sandy textured soils in overflow, silty and limey upland range sites. Optimal 16 to 20"

ppt. but also occurs in 10 to 16" ppt. conditions. Strong drought resistance and may replace bluestems in some areas during prolonged drought. Good cold tolerance but intolerant of high water tables and early spring flooding. Common from about 2,000' in Great Plains and up to 6,000' elevation in Rocky Mountain river valleys and Intermountain desert plains. Fire tolerant when dormant.

CULTURE

Drill seed 1" deep in sandy soils and shallower in medium-textured soils. Need special grass drills to handle, hairy, fluffy seeds. If broadcast seeded, cover to approximate same depth. Drill into non-volunteering crop stubble or use seed-hay method of seeding on erosive sites. Drill 4 to 7 lbs. PLS per acre on rangeland. Double rate for broadcasting, or for harsh, erosive, and for sites facing south and west. Seed in early spring or mid summer before rainy season, but plan enough time for seedlings to be well rooted before winter. Restrict all grazing until plants are well established and rooted.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for stabilization, grazing and hay. Occasionally seeded in warm season grass mixtures on sandy soils. Can establish seed by seed-hay method for stabilizing sandy lands, including "blowouts" and sand dunes. Restrict grazing and manage by moderate, continuous or rotation grazing to maintain cover yearlong. Herbicides may be used for weed control in new stands.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Goshen' released from Wyoming.
'Pronghorn' released from Nebraska.
'Bowman' released from Canada.

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