

Plant Name: Sand Lovegrass

Scientific name: *Eragrostis trichodes* (Nutt.) Alph. Wood

Short Description:

Sand Lovegrass is a native, warm-season, short-lived, perennial bunchgrass found on sandy soil sites in the central and southern plains states.

Description:

Sand Lovegrass is a native, warm-season, short-lived, leafy, perennial bunchgrass which reaches mature heights from 2.5 to 4 feet with a shallow, wide spreading root system. Sand Lovegrass grows best on sandy soils with an annual precipitation of 18 to 36 inches. Sand Lovegrass typically greens up two weeks earlier than most of the other native grasses and is very palatable. When overgrazed, it will decrease relative to other grasses. Seeding rates are very low due to extremely small dark round seed it produces. Sand Lovegrass is commonly found as a component in native areas along with hairy grama, western wheatgrass, and sand dropseed

Taxonomic Classification:

Sand Lovegrass

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosidea
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Eragrostis</i>
Species	<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i> (Nutt.) Alph. Wood

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	32 to 48 inches
Growth habit:	bunchgrass
Bloom period:	summer
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	green
Seeds per pound:	3,800,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	50 to 55 °F
Soil pH range:	6.0 to 8.5
Planting Rate:	1 PLS lb/1000 sq ft or 2.5 to 3.0 PLS lb/acre
Planting Depth:	surface to 1/16 inch
Panting season:	March to May



Use:

Erosion control: The adaptation to sandy soils makes Sand Lovegrass excellent vegetation for the prevention of soil loss on areas highly prone to wind erosion.

Livestock: Sand Lovegrass is highly palatable forage that is preferred by grazing livestock. It is sometimes referred to as “ice cream grass” because of its palatability. Early spring growth gives it an advantage over other warm-season grasses. The plants remain green well into the fall and provide fair forage value even late in the fall.

Landscape: Sand Lovegrass makes a unique accent plant as well as very appealing in mass plantings. The fine leaves and the large branched panicle with florets at the end of the branches are very attractive in the landscape.

Commercially Available Cultivars:

‘Bend’ (cooperatively released by the Kansas Agriculture Experiment Station and USDA’s Agriculture Research Service and Soil Conservation Service in 1971)

‘Mason’ (cooperatively released by USDA Soil Conservation Service and the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station in 1971)

‘Nebraska 27’ (cooperatively released by the Nebraska Agriculture Experiment Station, USDA Agriculture Research Service, and the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1949)