

Plant Name: Buffalograss

Scientific name: *Buchloe dactyloides* (Nutt.) Engelm.

Short Description:

Buffalograss is a warm-season, sod forming, perennial native short-grass that is found growing in geographic areas with 10 to 30 inches of annual precipitation.

Description:

Buffalograss is a warm-season; perennial native grass that forms a sod and the mature height is generally 8 inches or less. Buffalograss is native to the Great Plains from Canada to Mexico. Buffalograss is a dioecious species having separate male and female plants. The male plant when flowering has an erect stem with a flag-like spike. The female plant forms a burr below the canopy which contains and the seed. Buffalograss has fine textured leaves and spreads by runners or stolons. Buffalograss prefers well drained clay loam and clay soils. Buffalograss is thought of as a “dual-purpose” grass since it has long been used for both range as well as turf applications. The low-maintenance aspect of buffalograss has created great interest in developing new turfgrass cultivars with increased leaf density, faster establishment, and improved color.

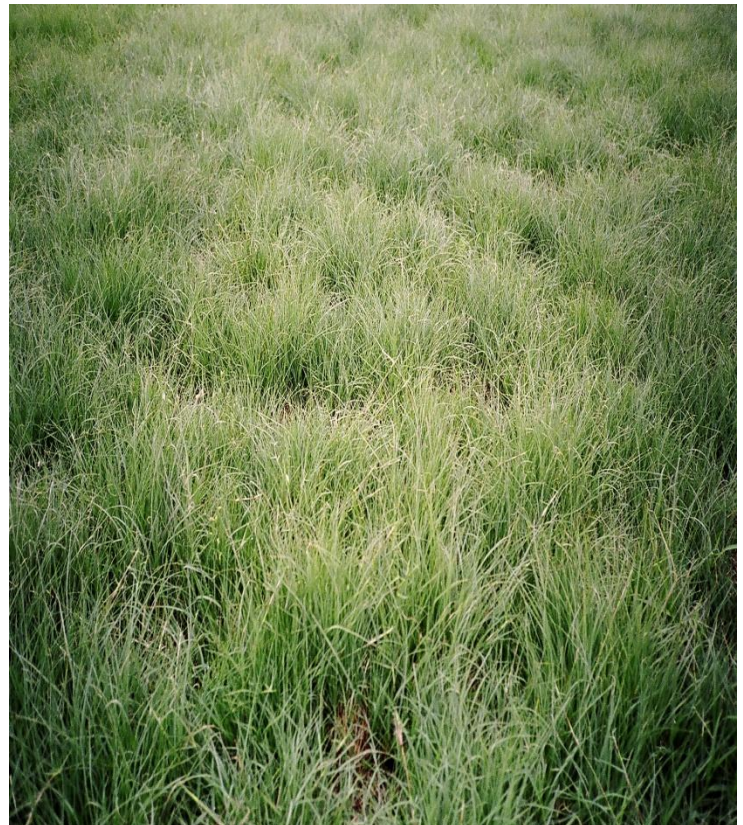
Taxonomic Classification:

Buchloe dactyloides (Nutt.) Engelm.

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosidea
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Buchloe</i>
Species	<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> (Nutt.) Engelm.

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	4 to 10 inches
Growth habit:	sod forming
Bloom period:	early summer
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	blue-green
Seeds per pound:	40,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	60 °F
Soil pH range:	6.0 to 8.0
Planting Rate:	Turf: 2 to 3 lbs/1000 sq ft or 90 to 120 lbs/acre Forage: 10 to 15 PLS lbs/acre
Planting Depth:	½ inch
Panting season:	spring



Use:

Erosion control: The sod forming ability of Buffalograss makes it a very good conservation species in drier climates.

Livestock: Buffalograss has always been one of the most important grazing species in the short-grass prairie regions.

Landscape: In the past 15 years several turf-type buffalograsses have been released, both seeded and vegetative varieties. These varieties show improvements in color, density, and rate of establishment

Commercially Available Cultivars:**Forage:**

'Bison' (cooperatively developed and released in 1990 by Oklahoma State University and USDA/ARS)

'Texoka' (cooperatively released in 1974 by ARS, SCS, and Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations)

Turf:

'Cody' (developed and released in 1995 by the Native Turf Group in cooperation with the University of Nebraska)

'Bowie' (developed and released in 2001 by the Native Turf Group in cooperation with the University of Nebraska)

'Bison' (cooperatively developed and released in 1990 by Oklahoma State University and USDA/ARS)

'Texoka' (cooperatively released in 1974 by ARS, SCS, and Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations)