

Plant Name: Indiangrass

Scientific name: *Sorghastrum nutans* L.

Short Description:

Indian is a native perennial, warm-season tallgrass with beautiful golden plume-like seed heads.

Description:

Indiangrass is a native perennial, warm-season tall grass, which reproduces from seed and short underground stems. It produces beautiful golden plume-like seed heads on stems that reach heights of 4 to 8 feet tall. It is easily identified by the claw-like ligule where the blade attaches to the sheath. Indiangrass is used for green forage or dry prairie hay and is very nutritious. It should not be grazed shorter than 5 to 8 inches during the growing season. It is found throughout the Bluestem belt of the United States, and can be seeded alone or in mixtures with other tall grasses.

Taxonomic Classification:

Indiangrass

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosidea
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Sorghastrum</i>
Species	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	48 to 72 inches
Growth habit:	early summer
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	green
Seeds per pound:	175,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	50 to 55 F°
Soil pH range:	4.8 to 8.0
Planting Rate:	6 to 8 pls lbs/acre
Planting Depth:	¼ to ½ inch
Planting season:	March to May



Use:

Conservation: Indiangrass has many applications in the conservation of land. It is widely used in soil stabilization, nutrient reclamation, filter strips, and buffer strips.

Livestock: Indiangrass is readily consumed by many classes of livestock. Typically planted in mixtures with other warm-season native grasses.

Landscape: Indiangrass can be planted as an accent plant or in mass plantings. The beautiful golden plume-like seedheads makes Indiangrass one of the most desired native grasses in the landscape. Indiangrass is the state grass of Oklahoma.

Commercially Available Cultivars

'Osage' (Kansas and Oklahoma)

'Cheyenne' (informal release in Oklahoma)

'Holt' (Nebraska)

'Rumsey' (Illinois)

Various native ecotypes