

Plant Name: Sideoats Grama

Scientific name: *Bouteloua curtipendula* (Michx.) Torr.

Short Description:

Sideoats Grama is a native perennial grass with bluish-green foliage and very drought tolerant.

Description:

Sideoats Grama is a native deep rooted, perennial grass that grows to heights of 1 to 3 feet tall and produces 30 to 50 oat-like seed spirelets that hang down uniformly on one side of the seed stem. Sideoats Grama is a winter-hardy, drought-resistant grass that can be found throughout the United States, but typically east of the Rocky Mountains. It is the most widely adapted species of the all the warm-season perennial grasses. Sideoats Grama is the largest and coarsest of the grama species. It grows on well drained uplands, shallow ridges, and rocky areas, but may be found on both shallow and deep soils. It produces a high quality, nutritious forage that is used for either pasture or hay. It is also used for erosion control, due to the seedling vigor and the ease with which it is established on severely eroded soils. Sideoats Grama should not be grazed below 2 to 3 inches during the growing season. It is often found in mixtures with Blue Grama, Buffalograss, and Little Bluestem.



Taxonomic Classification:

Sideoats Grama

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosidea
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Bouteloua</i>
Species	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx.) Torr.

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	12 to 36 inches
Growth habit:	bunchgrass, rhizomatous
Bloom period:	late spring
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	bluish-green
Seeds per pound:	180,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	50 to 55 °F
Soil pH range:	5.5 to 8.5
Planting Rate:	1 PLS lb/3000 sq ft or 10 PLS lbs/acre
Planting Depth:	¼ inch on clay soils, ¾ inch on coarse soils
Planting season:	March to May

Use:

Erosion control: Sideoats Grama is one of the most widely utilized native grasses for soil conservation. Its ease of establishment and stand persistence make it desirable for many applications. It is recommended in most grass mixtures for livestock pasture, land revegetation, bank stabilization, and other critical areas.

Livestock: Sideoats Grama produces high quality palatable forage that is utilized by all classes of livestock. Palatability is excellent through spring and summer and unlike many of the other warm-season grasses it maintains good palatability into the winter.

Wildlife: Sideoats Grama is consumed by deer and antelope, and provides cover for upland gamebirds and other small mammals.

Commercially Available Cultivars:

'El Reno' (Oklahoma)

'Haskell' (Texas)

'Butte' (Nebraska)

'Niner' (New Mexico)

'Pierre' (South Dakota)