Plant Name: Alkali Sacaton

Scientific name: *Sporobolu airoides* (Torr.) Torr.

Short Description:
Alkali Sacaton is a tough native perennial grass that is highly tolerant to drought, alkali, and saline soils.

Description:
Alkali Sacaton is a tough native perennial grass that is highly tolerant to drought, alkali, and saline soils. It occurs in all the western states and isolated areas in the eastern part of the U.S. Although it is very alkaline and saline tolerant it also does very well in fertile soils. The seed is very small and must be planted shallow to acquire a good stand. Frequent irrigation is required for adequate germination, however once established it can thrive in environments with less than 15 inches annual rainfall. Alkali Sacaton is generally found growing in alkaline flats, prairies, and sandy plateaus. Mature plants reach 24 to 42 inches in height and when mature have red-colored seedheads.

Taxonomic Classification: Akali Sacaton

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosida
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	*Sporobolu*
Species	*Sporobolu airoides* (Torr.) Torr.

Plant Characteristics

Height:	24 to 42 inches
Growth habit:	bunch
Bloom period:	mid summer
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foilage color:	green
Seeds per pound:	1,750,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	60ºF
Soil pH range:	6.6 to 9.0
Planting Rate:	1 PLS lb/15,000 sq ft or 3 PLS lb.acre
Planting Depth:	surface to 1/8 inch
Planting season:	March to May

Use:

Soil Conservation: Due to its stress tolerance to heat and poor soils, Alkali Sacaton is an important grass for soil stabilization in tough environments where other grasses typically fail.

Livestock: Alkali Sacaton's abundant forage is eaten by most my classes of livestock.

Wildlife: Alkali Sacaton provides cover and seeds to some wildlife but it is not considered important to wildlife.

Landscape: Alkali Sacaton makes an excellent accent plant although it can be invasive in garden settings when mature seed is allowed to shatter to the ground.

Commercially Available Cultivars:
'Saltalk' (released in 1981 by the Soil Conservation Service, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and Agricultural Research Service)