

Plant Name: Sand Bluestem

Scientific name: *Andropogon hallii* Hack.

Short Description:

Sand Bluestem is a native, perennial, warm season bunchgrass that is best adapted to sandy type soils in regions with 14 to 30 inches of annual precipitation.

Description:

Sand Bluestem is a native, perennial, warm season bunchgrass which can reach heights of 7 feet. Sand bluestem reproduces by both seed and rhizomes. Sand Bluestem is considered a poor seed producer in its native habitat and spreads mainly by rhizomes. Sand Bluestem occurs on native prairies west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from Canada to Mexico. Sand Bluestem is considered an important part of the prairie and is generally used in all sandy land native mixes. Forage production is good to excellent in quality and when heavily grazed it will decrease in relation to most other species. Breeding efforts have resulted in varieties with improvements in seedling vigor, seed production, and forage production.

Taxonomic Classification:

Sand Bluestem

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Tracheobionta
Superdivision	Spermatophyta
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Lillosidea
Subclass	Commelinidae
Order	Cyperales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Andropogon</i>
Species	<i>Andropogon hallii</i> Hack.

Plant Characteristics:

Height:	60 to 84 inches
Growth habit:	bunchgrass
Bloom period:	mid summer
Sun requirement:	full sun
Leaf foliage color:	green to bluish-green
Seeds per pound:	100,000
Minimum soil temperature for germination:	50 to 55 °F
Soil pH range:	5.6 to 8.4
Planting Rate:	1 PLS lb/2000 sq ft or 16 PLS lb/acre
Planting Depth:	¼ to ½ inch
Planting season:	March to May



Use:

Erosion control: Sand Bluestem is used extensively in soil conservation because its adaptation to sand and extension root system.

Livestock: Sand Bluestem is a good to excellent forage due to its high palatability and high yield. Forage should be harvested prior to seedhead formation as palatability rapidly decreases once it reaches maturity which is true of most of native grasses.

Wildlife: Sand Bluestem is browsed by many wildlife species and provides nesting and cover for upland game birds.

Landscape: Sand Bluestem makes an attract landscape plant in sandy type soils. Its ability to tolerate stresses makes it very desirable as a low-maintenance species.

Commercially Available Cultivars:

'Chet' (2004 by the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in cooperation with the Oklahoma Agricultural Experimental Station and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service: Dr. Tim Springer, Southern Plains Research Station, Woodward, OK)

'Woodward' (1955, cooperatively by Oklahoma and Kansas Experiment Stations and Plant Science Research Division)