

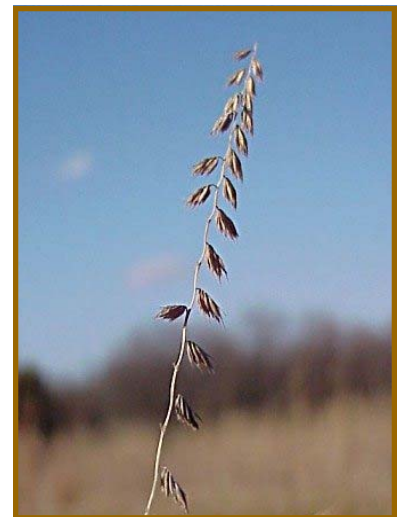
Sideoats Grama

- ◆ Quick to establish
- ◆ Highly palatable & nutritious
- ◆ Provides good erosion control
- ◆ Good seed producer
- ◆ Seeds loved by small mammals and songbirds
- ◆ Moderate tolerance of spring flooding and shade



10-12 PLS lbs/Acre

June—August



Sideoats Grama

DESCRIPTION

Sideoats Grama is a medium sized, warm-season native bunchgrass. It is the largest species of the grama grasses, reaching up to 3 feet in height. The color of the grass is bluish-green and cures to a reddish-brown color in the fall. The leaves are fairly coarse and stiff. Blooms occur along one side of the seed stalk and are bright red in color. The mature seeds droop from this one edge, thus attributing to the name. Sideoats Grama germinates rapidly when conditions are favorable, which is usually a fairly long wet period. However, seedlings will not develop sufficiently to withstand a significant drought, so early continued moisture is important.

APPLICATION

Despite the early need for water, developed plants do not handle abundant moisture well and can easily drown out. Their long root system will penetrate deeply into the underlying areas of drier, subsurface soil, which then reduces the plants dependency on the changeable moisture levels of the topsoil. Sideoats grama does not persist on many sites. The roots lessen in number after the first year of growth and the plant will often disappear completely after 5 years. It does, however, reseed fairly easily if the site is favorable. The best growing sites are those with shallow soil, a fairly low moisture level and good drainage. Because it is so drought tolerant it often becomes abundant following prolonged dry periods.

USES

Modern day application of Sideoats grama is in CRP plantings, wildlife habitat re-establishment, reseeding of abandoned sites and eroding fields and in mixtures of native grasses for forage.

SEEDING

Rates: 10-12 PLS lbs/Acre. on new seeding.

Depth: Plant the seed no more than 1/2 inch deep. Emerging seedlings lack the strength to push through too much overlying soil. More seed has been lost to poor planting practices than anything else; this is especially true of seed depth.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Soil Preparation: For the best conservation practice, no-till the seed into the stubble of a previous crop or the existing stand of another species that has been successfully eradicated. Pay close attention to previous land use practices. If a row crop has been planted for many years in succession a herbicide carryover is possible. If you feel you must plow up the site before planting, prepare your seedbed like you would for any other crop. The seedbeds need to be firm, not fluffy, so the seed will not be planted at an inappropriate depth. Use a cultipacker to firm your seedbed or some other type of roller that will create a smooth planting area that is not too hard.

NPK requirement: We do not recommend the use of fertilizer the first year, at least not nitrogen. Moderate levels of phosphorus and potassium are beneficial, especially for root establishment, which is a primary activity of the plant the first year. Use a soil test to help you decide that rats. Fertilizer may be applied the second year to enhance vigor and production of forage. It is not necessary to fertilize at all, but stand strength may be compromised without it.

Weed Control: We recommend a controlled burn every 1-3 years if possible. If not, then a mowing pattern should be established in order to control woody species invasion and prevent thatch build up. If you mow, mow no lower than 8 inches and no later than August 1.

Grazing: Rotational grazing or flash grazing is another good management tool. Care should be taken to prevent the livestock from grazing the warm season grass to a level that would not rebound after grazing. Use 6 inches as your stopping point and a re-growth of 12 inches.

IDENTIFICATION

Clum: Erect, solid, 10-40 inches tall, glabrous, purplish at the nodes. They arise in clumps or just a few together.

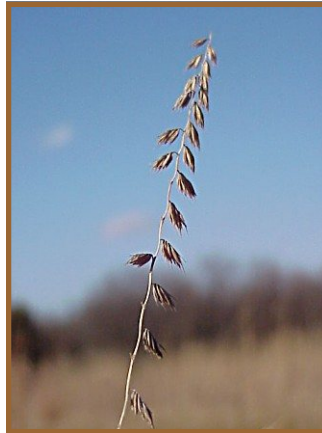
Blades: Numerous, flat, 2-12 inches long, scabrous above and on the margins, smooth beneath. Hairs grow out from tiny blister-like bumps on the blade margins, especially near the ligule.

Sheath: Usually shorter than the internodes, striate (fine parallel lines or ridges), glabrous below to somewhat pilose above. The collar is often pilose on the margins.

Ligule: A very short fringed membrane, truncate.

Inflorescence: The inflorescence is a panicle, 3-16 inches long, with 20-60 spike-like branches, each one-sided and .5-.75 inches long. The individual branches are angled to one side of the slightly zig-zag rachis and hang down.

Spikelets: There are 3-8 spikelets per branch with one perfect floret and one imperfect floret. The lemma has three short, unequal awns.



Area of Adaptation

