



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Also known as: Sudex, Sudax. Excellent summer grass choice. Plant in early summer; does not tolerate cool soils. Fastgrower that reaches 6-12 ft tall, big biomass potential in the presence of lots of soil N. Regrows well after mowing/grazing. Excellent subsoiler with thicker roots than most grasses. Excellent weed suppressor due to competition and allelopathy (caution if next crop is small-seeded). Good forage, but prussic acid and nitrate content can be a problem. Improved forage types available, cultivars may vary widely. Can produce large amount of biomass; mow or kill in a timely fashion. Can substitute forage sorghum or sudangrass. Mixes well with cowpea and sunn hemp to create a diverse warm-season mixture.





Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

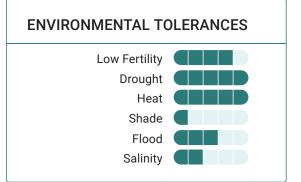
Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window Short Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Forage Harvest Value

Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment



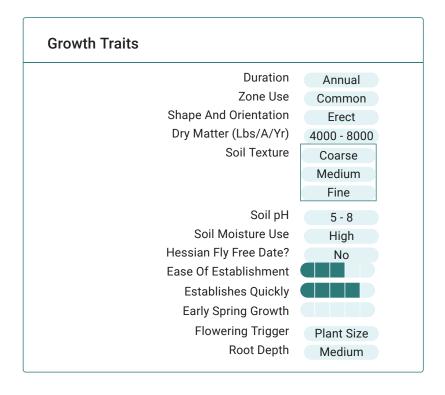
Sorghum-sudangrass

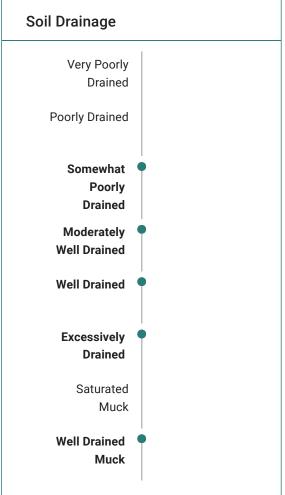
Sorghum bicolor x Sorghum bicolor var. Sudanense

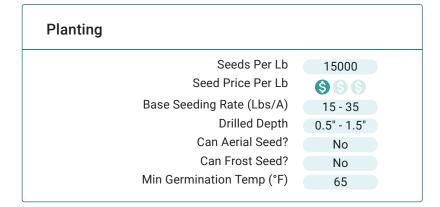


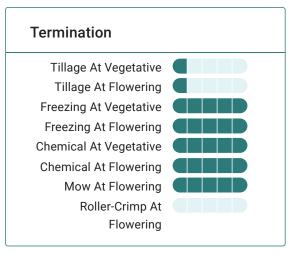


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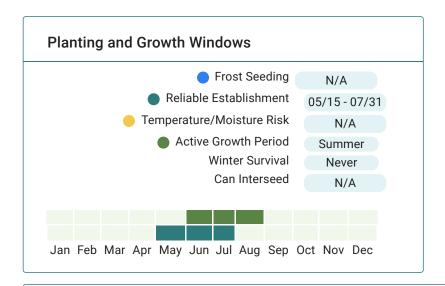








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Extended Comments

Nematodes: Supports reproduction of some root-knot nematode species/races.

Weeds: Mature, frost-killed plants become quite woody

Forage and Grazing: Excellent forage; not as winterhardy as other perennial forage grasses but establishes quickly so may still be useful as a cover crop.

Environmental Tolerances: Does very poorly under low-N conditions like most grasses.

References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide), University of Massachusetts Extension Late Season Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension <u>Sudangrass and Sorghum-Sudangrass</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension