

Grass

Sorghum-sudangrass

Sorghum bicolor x Sorghum bicolor var. Sudanense



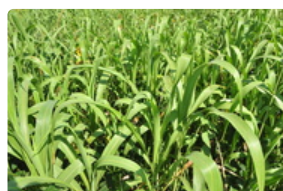
PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Also known as: Sudex, Sudax. Excellent summer grass choice. Plant in early summer; does not tolerate cool soils. Fast-grower 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.

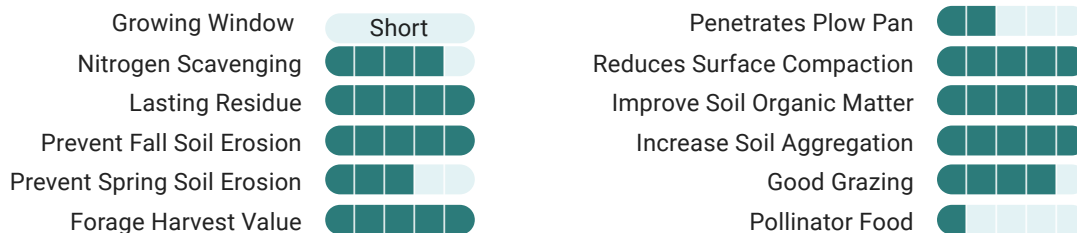


Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

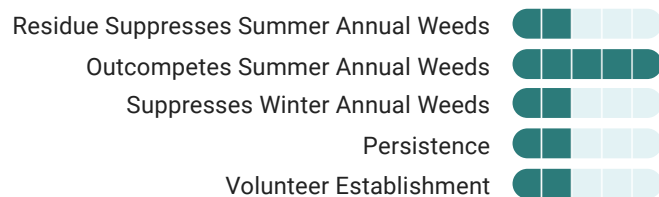


Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

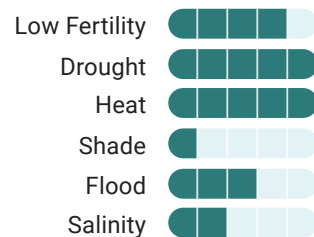
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



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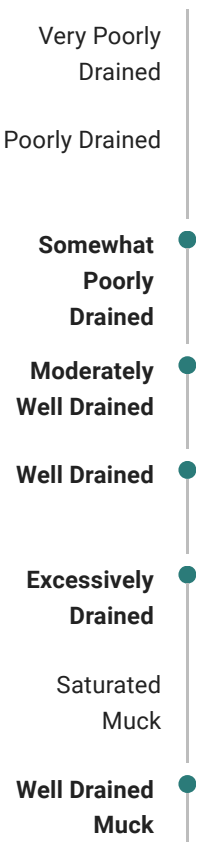


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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	4000 - 8000
Soil Texture	Coarse
	Medium
	Fine
Soil pH	5 - 8
Soil Moisture Use	High
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Establishes Quickly	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Early Spring Growth	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Flowering Trigger	Plant Size
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage



Planting

Seeds Per Lb	15000
Seed Price Per Lb	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	15 - 35
Drilled Depth	0.5" - 1.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	65

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Tillage At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Mow At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

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Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	N/A
Reliable Establishment	05/15 - 07/31
Temperature/Moisture Risk	N/A
Active Growth Period	Summer
Winter Survival	Never
Can Interseed	N/A



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
Sudangrass and Sorghum-Sudangrass, Cornell University Cooperative Extension