

Grass

### Sorghum-sudangrass

Sorghum bicolor x Sorghum bicolor var. Sudanense



## PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 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. Slow drydown will limit dry hay production; chop or wrap for forage. 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	Penetrates Plow Pan	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Nitrogen Scavenging	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Reduces Surface Compaction	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Lasting Residue	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Improve Soil Organic Matter	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Prevent Fall Soil Erosion	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Increase Soil Aggregation	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Prevent Spring Soil Erosion	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Good Grazing	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Forage Harvest Value	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	Pollinator Food	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

### WEEDS

Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Persistence	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Volunteer Establishment	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

### ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

Low Fertility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Drought	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Heat	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Shade	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Flood	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Salinity	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

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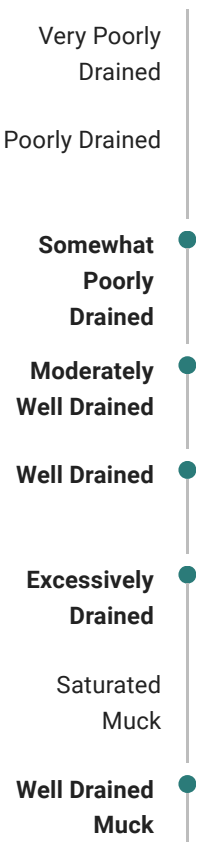


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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	4000 - 8000
Soil Texture	Coarse
	Medium
	Fine
Soil pH	6 - 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	05/01 - 05/15
Active Growth Period	Summer
Winter Survival	Never
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

**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.

**Weeds:** Mature, frost-killed plants become quite woody

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

References & Resources

**Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species**, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension  
**Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide)**, University of Massachusetts Extension  
**Late Season Cover Crops**, University of Massachusetts Extension  
**Cover Cropping for Success**, University of Maine Cooperative Extension  
**Using Green Manures**, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
**Selected Green Manures and Cover Crops for Maine**, University of Maine  
**Sudangrass and Sorghum-Sudangrass**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension