

Grass
Sudangrass
Sorghum X drummondii



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Excellent summer grass choice. Plant in early summer; does not tolerate cool soils. Fast-grower, 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. Slow drydown will limit dry hay production; chop or wrap for forage. Can produce large amount of biomass; mow or kill in a timely fashion. Can substitute forage sorghum or sorghum-sudangrass. Mix with cowpea, sunn hemp and sunflower for a diverse summer mix.

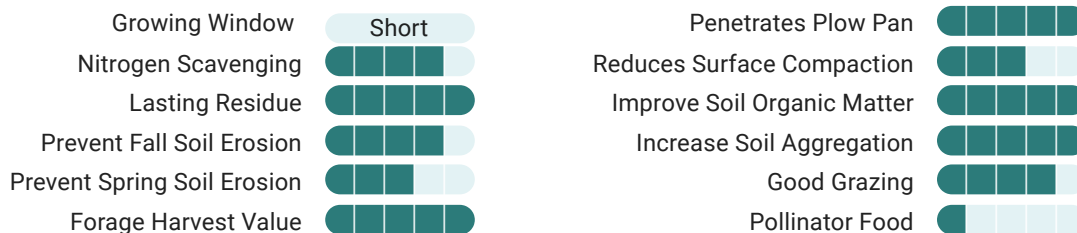


Sudangrass - Ziegler [2020]

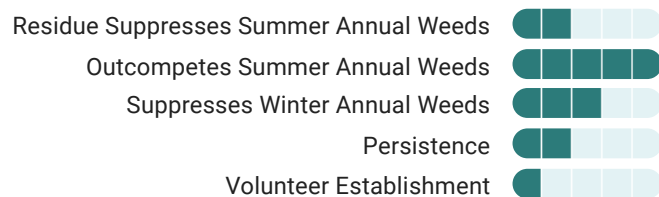


Sudangrass - Ziegler [2020]

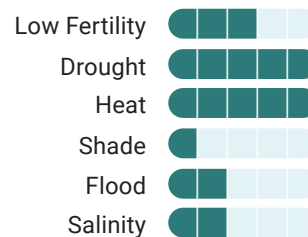
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



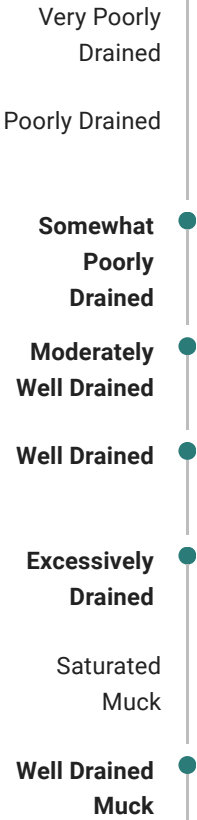


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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	3000 - 10000
Soil Texture	Coarse
	Medium
	Fine
Soil pH	5.5 - 7.5
Soil Moisture Use	Medium
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	Long Day
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage



Planting

Seeds Per Lb	30000
Seed Price Per Lb	\$ \$ \$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	15 - 35
Drilled Depth	0.5" - 1"
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 - 08/15
● Temperature/Moisture Risk	05/01 - 05/15
● Active Growth Period	Summer
Winter Survival	Never
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: Variety, planting date, and termination strategies impact biomass

Planting: Planting rate is based partly on seed size, which can vary dramatically. Recommended seeding rate here is based on the given seed size.

Nematodes: Host for lesion nematode.

References & Resources

[Cover Crops and Green Manures](#), University of Vermont Extension
[2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial](#), University of Vermont Extension
[Choosing Cover Crops](#), University of Massachusetts Extension
[Summer Cover Crops](#), University of Massachusetts Extension
[Cover Crops for Home Gardens](#), University of Maine Cooperative Extension
[Sudangrass and Sorghum-Sudangrass](#), Cornell University Cooperative Extension
[Early Summer Seasonal Cover Crops](#), Cornell University Cooperative Extension
[Mid and Late Summer Seasonal Cover Crops](#), Cornell University Cooperative Extension
[Summer Cover Crops](#), Penn State Extension