

Grass

Sorghum-sudangrass

Sorghum bicolor x Sorghum bicolor var. Sudanense



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 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.

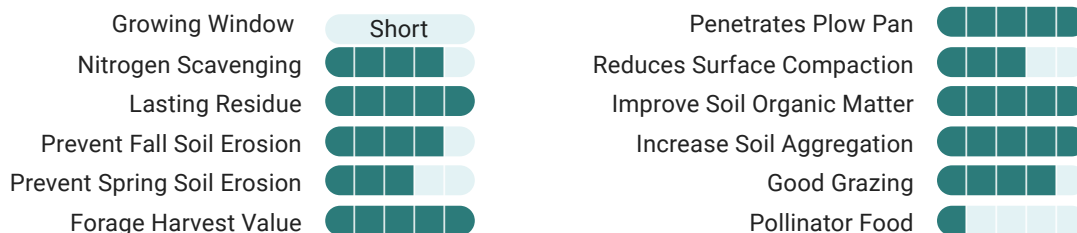


Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

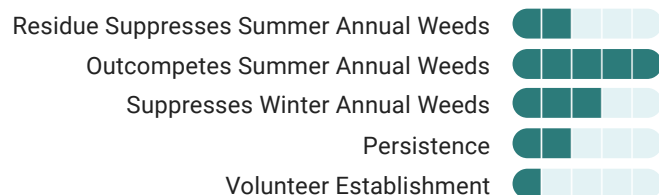


Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

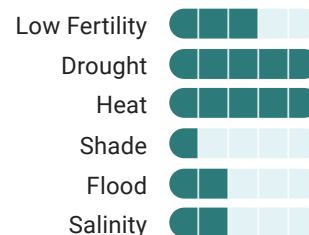
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



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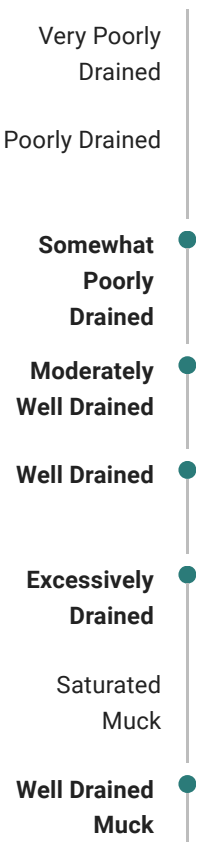


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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	2500 - 8000
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	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)	25 - 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

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

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

[Cover Crops and Green Manures](#), University of Vermont Extension

[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