

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.

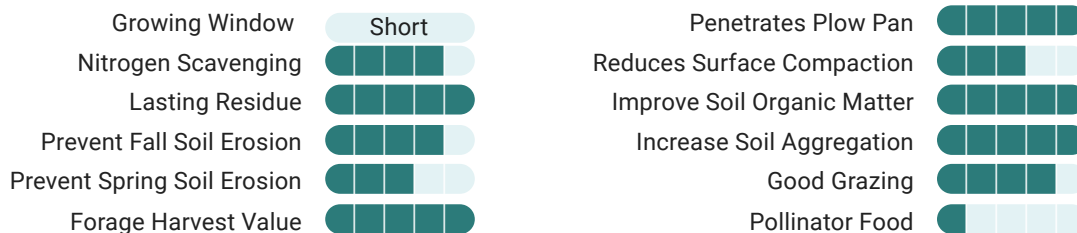


Sudangrass - Ziegler [2020]

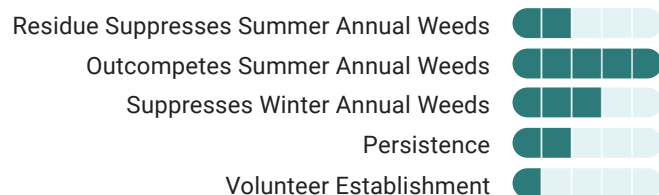


Sudangrass - Ziegler [2020]

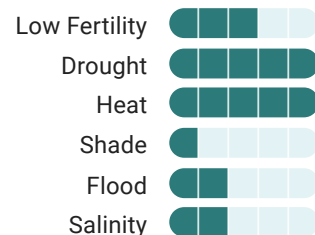
GOALS



WEEDS



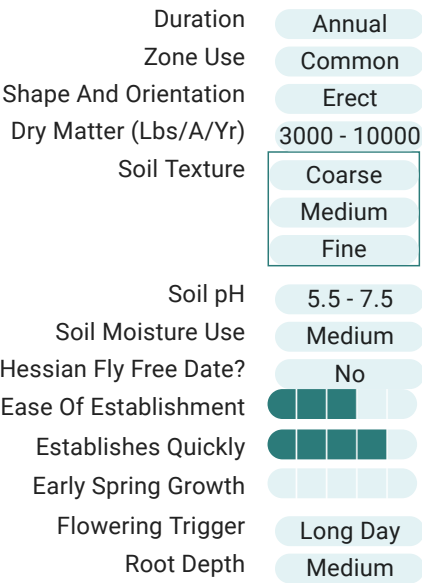
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



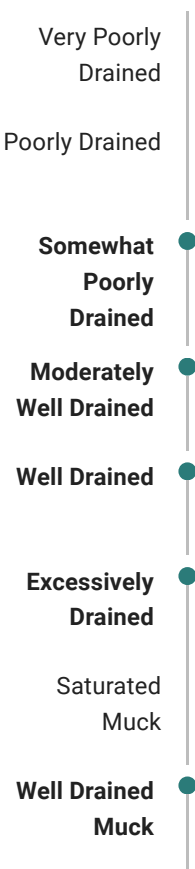


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

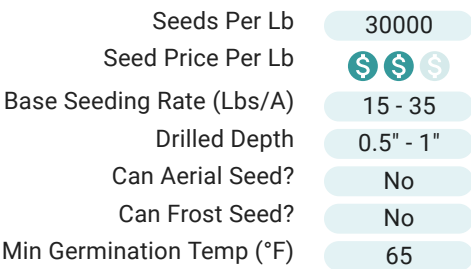
Growth Traits



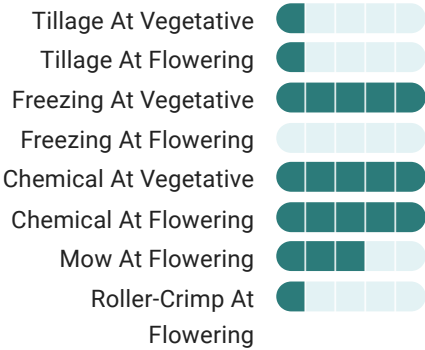
Soil Drainage



Planting



Termination





PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding

Reliable Establishment

Temperature/Moisture Risk

Active Growth Period

Winter Survival

Can Interseed

N/A

05/15 - 08/15

05/01 - 05/15

Summer

Never

N/A

JanFebMarAprMayJunJulAugSepOctNovDec

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