

Grass

Sorghum-sudangrass

Sorghum bicolor x Sorghum bicolor var. Sudanense



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 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.

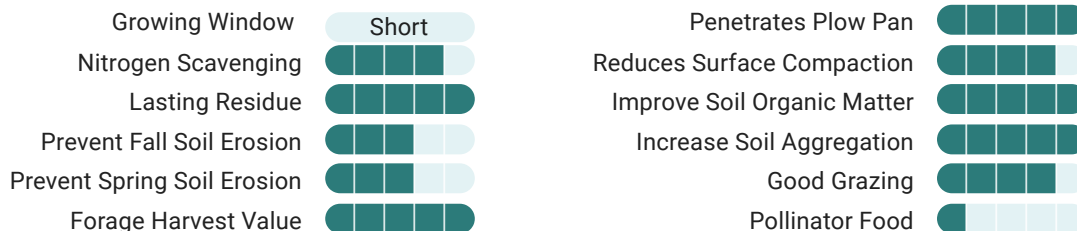


Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

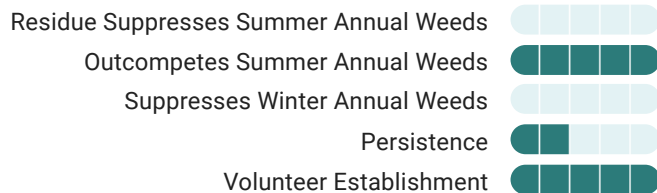


Sorghum Sudangrass - Larson [2020]

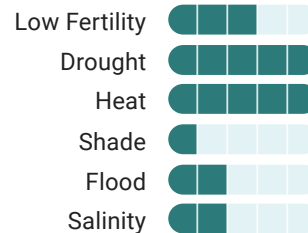
GOALS



WEEDS



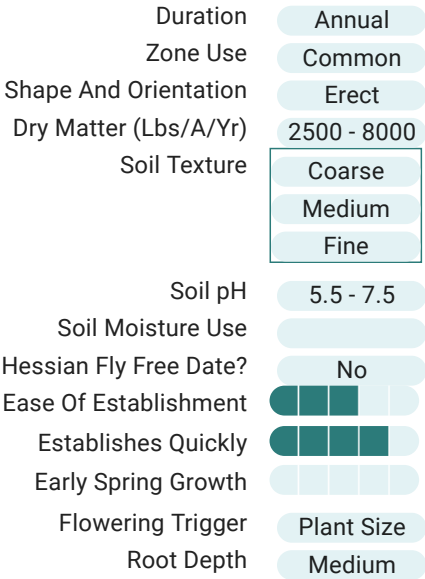
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



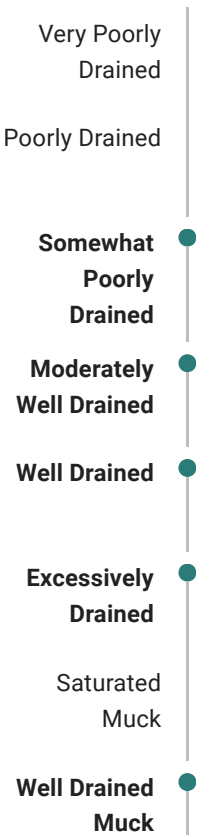


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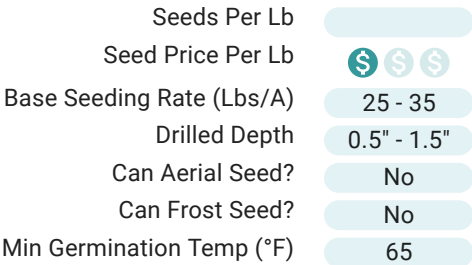
Growth Traits



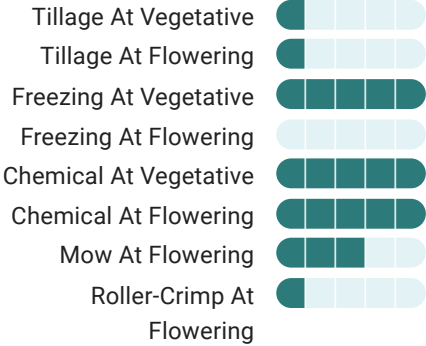
Soil Drainage



Planting



Termination



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Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	N/A
Reliable Establishment	06/01 - 07/31
Temperature/Moisture Risk	05/15 - 05/31
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.

Weeds: Mature, frost-killed plants become quite woody

Forage and Grazing: Excellent forage; establishes quickly so may still be useful as a cover crop.

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 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