

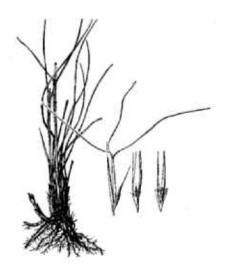
Plant Fact Sheet

FLORIDA THREEAWN

Aristida rhizomophora Swallen

Plant Symbol = ARRH

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



From Hitchcock, A.S. (1950) @ plants.usda.gov

Warning: This species may be mechanically injurious to livestock.

Alternate Name

Florida threeawn

Uses

Florida threeawn is grazed by livestock from early spring until May or June. Palatability decreases sharply after May. It can be used for winter grazing following a spring burn, but a protein supplement should be fed also.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's

current status, such as, state noxious status and wetland indicator values.

Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). Florida threeawn is a native, warm-season, rhizomatous perennial grass. The height is between 2 and 3 feet. The leaf blade is 1/16 inch wide, may be 18 inches long, dark green on upper side, and lighter green on underside; characteristic spiral or twist. The leaf sheath is smooth, rounded, and open. The ligule is absent or minute. The stem is round, smooth, and usually has 1 to 3 nodes 2 to 4 inches above ground. The seedhead is a slender panicle 7 to 14 inches long with awns about 1/2 inches long of equal length.

Distribution: For current distribution, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

Management

This grass withstands burning every 2 years in January if the ground is wet and grazing is deferred until mid-March. After March, it should be grazed moderately until June.

Establishment

Florida threeawn growth starts in late January or February. The leaf blades are at a maximum length by May. On burned areas, plants produce seed stalks in May and again in September and on unburned areas, only once in August or September. It reproduces largely from well-developed, scaly rhizomes. It also forms a dense sod and is adapted to poorly drained deep sandy soils that are strongly to slightly acid.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS *Agriculture Handbook No. 389*, Washington, DC.

Prepared By & Species Coordinator:

Percy Magee

USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Edited: 13may02 ahv; jul03 ahv; 20sep05 jsp; 070112 jsp

Plant Materials http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ Plant Fact Sheet/Guide Coordination Page http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ intranet/pfs.html> National Plant Data Center http://ppdc.usda.gov/

For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web sitehttp://plants.usda.gov or the Plant Materials Program Web site http://plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov

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