

concentration of aggressive warm-season grasses, such as K-R Bluestem or Buffelgrass.

Virginia wildrye is also a good seed producer. It can produce as much as 400 pounds of seed per dryland acre per year. Virginia wildrye contains approximately 80,000 seeds per pound.

Management

Virginia wildrye should not be grazed the first year, in order to allow the formation of a strong root system. Once established, graze on a rotational basis throughout the cool-season. Optimum forage height for use is between 4 and 10 inches.

Virginia wildrye can be grown dryland or with irrigation. It should not be fertilized after planting until the new plants have become established. After the stand is established, fertilize as indicated by the results of recent soil tests.

Pests and Potential Problems

Virginia wildrye is susceptible to damage from white grubworms. Stands may be treated with diazinon, other grub-killing pesticides, or biological controls to limit damage. Treatment should be applied when the grubs are in the active phase, usually in the late spring or early summer. Consult with your local agricultural extension office for the treatment and timing most effective for your area.

For additional assistance regarding the production and establishment of Virginia wildrye, please contact the Kika de la Garza Plant Material Center at (361) 595-1313.

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

Northern Missouri Germplasm Virginia Wildrye was released in 1999 by the Missouri Plant Material Center for use in northern Missouri.

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

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