

# GIANT SANDREED

## *Calamovilfa gigantea* (Nutt.) Scribn. & Merr.

Plant symbol = CAGI3

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



From Britton & Brown (1913)  
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### Alternate Name

Big sandreed, big sandreedgrass, big sandreed grass

### Uses

Giant sandreed is valuable for controlling erosion on deep sands subject to severe wind erosion. It cures well on stem, thus providing good winter forage for cattle. It is sometimes cut for hay.

### 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). Giant sandreed is a native, warm-season robust rhizomatous perennial. The height ranges between 4 to 6 feet. The leaf blade is 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide at the base and rolls inward tapering to a long tip. The leaf sheath is mostly basal, overlapping, and smooth. The seedhead is an open panicle 1 to 2 feet long with the lemma and palea hairy on the back.

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

### Management

When it grows on sites large enough to be managed as separate units, it is often reserved for winter use. If grazed during the summer, no more than 50 percent of current year's growth by weight should be removed. This maintains a vigorous healthy stand and leaves adequate mulch to control wind erosion.

### Establishment

Growth starts several days before that of other warm-season grasses in the same locality. It reproduces from seed and from rhizomes. It grows in large colonies and if properly managed dominates the site. It is adapted to deep sands and sand dunes.

### 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.

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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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