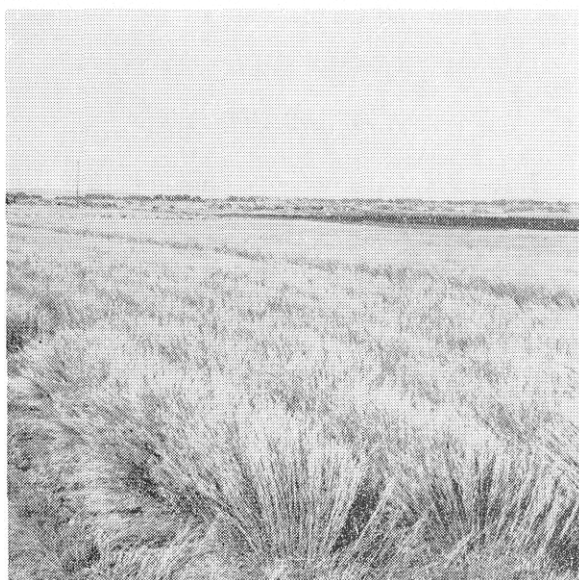


# *Pastura*

## LITTLE BLUESTEM



- IMPORTANT FOR RANGE REVEGETATION
- CLIMATICALLY ADAPTED TO SOUTHWESTERN GREAT PLAINS
- ADAPTED TO SANDY SITES
- HIGH SEED YIELDS
- VIGOROUS SEEDLING DEVELOPMENT
- FOUNDATION SEED AVAILABLE TO GROWERS

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**Cooperative Extension Service  
New Mexico State University**

## SEEDLING VIGOR

Seedling vigor of Pastura is very good, better than that of other strains in stand establishment under adverse range conditions.

## ***PASTURA LITTLE BLUESTEM***

Pastura, a new variety of little bluestem, *Andropogon scoparius* Michx., released by the New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, is a long-lived, perennial, native grass. The original seed was collected near Rowe, New Mexico. Pastura has been planted and evaluated since 1957 in New Mexico and Colorado.

### AREA OF ADAPTATION

Pastura is well suited for range plantings on light-textured soils of the foothills and plains in central and eastern New Mexico and eastern Colorado. In these areas, it has produced more seed and forage than native collections originating further east. Pastura is well adapted to adverse climatic conditions, particularly extremes in temperature and precipitation.

### SEED PRODUCTION

Pastura gave the highest seed yield of any little bluestem strain tested at the Plant Materials Center, Middle Rio Grande Branch Station, Los Lunas. An average of 100 pounds of pure live seed per acre has been produced. Because Pastura seed heads are less fuzzy than those of other little bluestem strains, they were easier to process.

### FORAGE PRODUCTION

For the species, Pastura produces an average amount of high quality forage. This variety has a uniform appearance, with good basal leaf growth of greater density than other strains tested.

### 'INSECTS AND DISEASES

No problems with diseases and insects have been encountered in either range test plantings or seed production plantings of Pastura little bluestem.

### TIPS ON SEED PRODUCTION

Under irrigation, Pastura little bluestem grows well on light- to medium-textured soil.

Plant in rows for ease of cultivation and irrigation. A row spacing of about 3 feet was most satisfactory in the tests, but the spacing may be adjusted to fit conventional equipment.

Seed at the rate of 2 or 3 pounds of pure live seed per acre.

Plant in late spring or early summer after soil has warmed up.

Plant about 1/2 inch deep with rows on beds or beside shallow furrows so that the seedbed can be irrigated without getting water directly on the row until the plants are up and growing.

Apply 80 to 120 pounds of available nitrogen on established stands at the time of the first irrigation in late spring.

A color change in the seed heads and early seed shattering indicate the time to harvest the seed. The seed heads and, consequently, the whole field become uniformly brownish. Some tip portions of the seed heads may break off and scatter between the rows.

An all-crop type of combine is satisfactory for harvesting the seed. Cut the air to a minimum, and operate the cylinder at high speed. The combined material must be spread and dried to avoid heating.

Keep the field free of weeds. At the Center, weed-killers have been effective in reducing labor costs.

## SEED SUPPLY

Foundation seed of Pastura little bluestem is produced and maintained at the Plant Materials Center, Middle Rio Grande Branch Station, Los Lunas, New Mexico. Soil and Water Conservation Districts have this seed available without charge for recognized seed growers to produce certified seed but not for general planting in 1964.



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