

ALAMO

Switchgrass



- Provides forage for livestock
- Controls erosion on watershed dams and ponds
- Provides cover and food for wildlife
- Is adapted to Central and South Texas

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
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The Texas A&M University System
In Cooperation with Soil Conservation Service
U S Department of Agriculture

ALAMO Switchgrass

'Alamo', a new variety of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* L.), has been released by the Soil Conservation Service and The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The original collection was made on the north bank of the Frio River by Soil Conservation Service personnel.

Description

Plants are blue-green and usually slightly waxy. They are taller than the Blackwell variety; the stems are larger and the leaves are usually longer and wider. Leaves are rarely hairy on top near the base. Flowering occurs 1 to 2 months later than in Blackwell. Seed are smooth and shiny, with about 426,000 per pound.

Adaptation

Alamo is adapted in Texas where rainfall is 25 inches or more per year. Performance has been good on all kinds of soils from clays to fine sands, except where severe weed competition exists during establishment. In areas with less than 25 inches of annual precipitation, Alamo can be used under irrigation and on naturally wet sites. Alamo is adapted south of the area where Blackwell and Kanlow perform well.

Uses

Alamo can be used in pure stands for pasture or in range seeding mixtures for warm season grazing or hay. It is easily established on watershed structure berms to control erosion above the waterline and provides food and cover for wildlife species.

Keywords: Switchgrass/Alamo/adaptation/establishment/seed production/forage/erosion control/wildlife food and cover/Central Texas/South Texas

Establishment

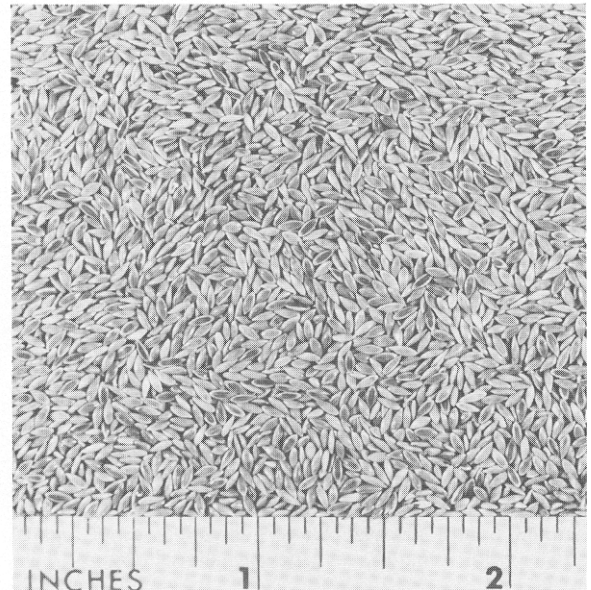
Two pounds per acre of pure live seed should be planted broadcast to obtain 20 seed per square foot. A clean, firm, weed-free seedbed must be prepared. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium should be applied as needed to bring fertility to a medium level.

Forage Production

Forage yield has varied from 2 to 7 tons per acre per year, depending on location and fertilizer application.

Seed Production

Seed production fields should be planted in the spring at a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in 38- to 42-inch rows. A small crop may be produced the establishment year if fertility and moisture levels are optimum. The seed mature in late October at the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center at Knox City and are easy to harvest; they may be direct combined or swathed and combined. Seed yield has averaged over 300 pounds per acre for 9 years at Knox City. Up to 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen should be applied in the spring for the second and subsequent years of production.



Closeup of seed

Foundation Seed

Foundation seed is available to seed growers from the Foundation Seed Service, The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas 77843. Certified seed should be available for planting after 1979.

For additional information, contact
Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 648
Temple, Texas 76501

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