



LOMETA Indiangrass

- Long-season native indiangrass selection
- High-quality grass for range or pasture uses in Texas
- Green or cured forage for livestock

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Neville P. Clarke, Director, College Station, Texas
The Texas A&M University System
In cooperation with Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

'LOMETA'

Indiangrass

'Lometa,' a new selection of indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans* (L.) Nash), has been released by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Origin

Lometa was collected from a native stand on the Kirby Ranch east of Lometa, Texas, by Soil Conservation Service personnel.

Description

Lometa averages about 4 feet in height at maturity. Long, narrow leaves are bluish-green and often slightly waxy. Plants occur in large bunches joined by short, stout rhizomes. Flowering occurs approximately 2 to 4 weeks later than 'Cheyenne' indiangrass and approximately 2 weeks later than 'Tejas.' The seed unit is 3 to 4 times as long as it is wide, light brown to straw colored, and slightly fluffy. There are approximately 168,400 seeds per pound.

Adaptation

Lometa is adapted to most soil types in Texas in areas with normal precipitation of at least 22 inches per year. Areas west of this precipitation zone should either be irrigated or receive additional runoff water. Lometa possibly extends north and east of Texas, but the exact range of adaptation outside of Texas has not yet been established.

Uses

Lometa is useful in range seeding mixtures or in pure stands for warm-season grazing or hay. Lometa has proven to be better adapted, longer-lived, and more productive than other indiangrass varieties presently available in the state, especially in central and south Texas.

Establishment

Lometa should be planted broadcast at 5 pounds per acre of pure live seed (PLS), or 1.7 PLS pounds per acre in 36- to 42-inch rows, to obtain 20 live seedlings per square foot. A clean, firm, weed-free seedbed is preferred. Fertilize according to site needs to a medium fertility level.

Forage Production and Quality

Forage yield has varied from 1 to 5 tons per acre per year in field plantings, depending on location and fertilization. Forage yield of Lometa was 1.9 times that of Cheyenne indiangrass at the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center (PMC) at Knox City, Texas. Lometa consistently ranked higher in digestible dry matter throughout the year than did 'Selection 75' kleingrass or 'Alamo' switchgrass in several years of study at the Knox City PMC.

Seed Production

Seed production fields should be planted in the spring at a depth of 1/2 to 3/4 inch in 38- to 42-inch rows. Seed mature from late October to early November at the Knox City PMC, and seed quality has averaged near 90 percent purity and 70 percent germination. The seed may be direct combined, or swathed and then combined. Some machine stripping has been attempted with varying degrees of success. Combined or stripped seed must be dried before storage. The seed should be hammermilled to remove or trim subtending appendages and to fragment the stem material harvested with the seed. Up to 60 pounds per acre of nitrogen should be applied in late spring or early summer for the second and subsequent years of production.

Foundation Seed

Foundation seed is available to seed growers from the Foundation Seed Service, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas 77843.



Closeup of seed

For additional **information, contact**
Soil **Conservation** Service
US. **Department of** Agriculture
P.O. Box 648
Temple, Texas 76503

Mention of a trademark or a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or a warranty of the product by The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station or the U.S. Department of Agriculture and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.

All programs and information of The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station are available to everyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.