

TEXAS BLUEGRASS

Poa arachnifera Torr.

Plant Symbol = POAR

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From Britton & Brown (1913)
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Uses

All livestock use Texas bluegrass for winter grazing throughout its range. It has also been used as a lawn grass.

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). Texas bluegrass is a native, cool-season, rhizomatous perennial. The height ranges from 10 to 20 inches. The leaf blade is mostly

basal, long, narrow, and boat shaped at the end. The seedhead is a narrow panicle with somewhat compressed 2 to 4 inches long and male and female spikelets on the same plant.

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

Management

Grazing should be deferred in spring every few years to allow this grass to produce a seed crop. It is a key management species on some sites that are winter grazed by cattle and sheep. If it is, no more than 50 percent of current year's growth by weight should be removed by grazing.

Establishment

Growth begins in the fall. Foliage stays green all winter, if moisture is available. It becomes dormant through the hot summer months. In extremely low temperatures, leaves freeze but more leaves grow from auxiliary buds on the basal nodes. It reproduces from stolons and from seed. Seeds produced in the spring germinate in the fall. It grows best on clay and clay loam soils.

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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Edited: 13may02 ahv; jul03 ahv; 20sep05 jsp; 070116 jsp

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

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