

LOPSIDED INDIANGRASS

Sorghastrum secundum (Ell.)
Nash
Plant Symbol = SOSE5

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



Hitchcock, A.S. 1950
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Uses

All livestock readily eat lopsided Indiangrass during the growing season. It cures well on the stem and provides good dry forage during the winter.

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). Lopsided Indiangrass is a warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 3 to 6 feet. The leaf blade is flat; 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide and 12 to 24 inches long. The leaf sheath is rounded and the ligule has a membrane 1/4 to 1/2 inches long and pointed. The seedhead has a narrow golden brown one-sided panicle giving it the name lopsided Indiangrass.

Management

On ranges in good condition, this grass contributes as much as 15 percent of total production. To increase it on ranges in poor and fair condition, complete growing-season grazing deferments every 2 to 3 years are required.

Establishment

It is adapted to well-drained soils. It does not grow on poorly drained sites or on sites subject to standing water.

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 Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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