

**PINELAND
THREEAWN**
Aristida stricta Michx.
Plant Symbol = ARST5

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



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Warning: This species may be mechanically injurious to livestock.

Alternate Names
wiregrass

Uses
Cattle graze pineland threeawn in early spring. Spring growth becomes wiry and unpalatable during May and June.

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). Pineland threeawn is a cool-season, perennial bunch grass native to the U.S. The height is between 1-1/2 and 2-1/2 feet. The leaf blade is mostly basal; 12 to 20 inches long; narrow; rolled inward; wiry; and hairy on upper side at base. The ligule is hairy. The seedhead is a slender panicle 10 to 12 inches long; glumes have 3 awns about 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, one a little longer than other two.

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

Management

This grass increases slowly on areas burned annually and grazed all year. It decreases on areas grazed heavily in early spring and on which grazing is deferred during summer and early fall. Double chopping with heavy rolling cutters in early spring easily reduces it.

Establishment

Pineland threeawn growth starts in January in south Florida and in early March in Georgia and is rapid. The leaf blades usually grow 6 to 8 inches in 4 weeks and the seedheads appear during May and June. Pineland threeawn is a poor seed producer and a low forage producer. It tolerates shade. Occasionally short, thin rhizomes develop on plants that have been burned repeatedly. It grows on well-drained sands over finer textured subsoil and on sands covered with shallow water for part of the year. It does well on moderate to well-drained strongly acid 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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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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