

## PLAINS LOVEGRASS

*Eragrostis intermedia* A.S.

Hitchc.

Plant Symbol = ERIN

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



From Hitchcock (1950)  
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**Alternate Name**  
plains love grass

**Uses**  
Plains lovegrass provides good forage for livestock. Its seeds are eaten by upland game birds. Because it usually makes up a small percentage of the forage production on any site, it is seldom a key management species.

**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**  
Plains lovegrass is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height is between 2 and 3-1/2 feet. The leaf blade is flat and rolls inward under dry conditions giving a threadlike appearance. The leaf sheath is mostly basal, smooth, as long as internodes, and has a conspicuous line of hairs at the collar. The seedhead is a large and showy open panicle that is brownish green in color before seed ripens. The spikelets are 3- to 8-flowered and extend horizontally from main stem. Silver hairs are found around the stem at the panicle base.

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

**Management**  
Proper management of other associated grasses keeps lovegrass vigorous.

**Establishment**  
Growth starts in the early spring. Because this grass has a high seed stalk to leaf ratio, it is a low forage producer. It is seldom found in pure stands, but is generally scattered throughout the plant community. It grows on dry upland soils ranging from clay to sand.

**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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