United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

'Haskell'
Sideoats Grama
Bouteloua curtipendula (Michx.) Torr.

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center, Knox City, TX

USDA-NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith PMC

'Haskell' sideoats grama [*Bouteloua curtipendula* (Michx.), Torr.] was released from the James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center in Knox City, Texas in 1983.

Description

Bouteloua curtipendula, (Michx.) Torr., sideoats grama, is a native, perennial warm season bunchgrass. Plant height ranges between 2 to 2½ feet tall. Plant crowns will spread slowly by means of short, stout rhizomes. The straight, mostly basal leaves have a bluish-green color. During the vegetative stage, sideoats grama can be easily recognized by the long, evenly spaced hairs attached to the margins of the leaf near its base. Sideoats grama has a distinct inflorescence consisting of a zigzag stalk with 10 to 30 spikes dangling to the side at even intervals. As seed matures, these spikes will fall to the ground. There are approximately 579,000 seeds per pound.

Source

Haskell sideoats grama was collected from a native stand near Haskell, Texas in Haskell County.

Conservation Uses

Haskell sideoats grama has many conservation uses. It can be used singly or in mixtures for livestock forage on rangeland and hayland. Testing at the James E."Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center has shown that Haskell has a crude protein starting at 13% in the spring, decreasing to 6% in early fall. Digestibility ranges from 70% in early spring to 50% in early fall. Haskell has proven to be better adapted, longer lived, and more productive than other varieties presently available in Texas. It is also used for revegetation of reclaimed surface-mined lands and other sites where water concentration is a problem. Plantings are successful on rocky, stony, or shallow soils and can also be used to cover areas left bare by the loss of grasses during drought conditions. Haskell sideoats grama also provides cover for small mammals and birds.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Haskell grows well on most soil types in Texas and areas that receive at least 18 inches of rainfall per year. It is adapted to calcareous and moderately alkaline soils and rocky sites of prairies.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

The full seedling rate for Haskell sideoats grama is 4.5 pounds of pure live seed per acre. When planting Haskell as a component of a seed mixture, the seeding rate should be adjusted to the desired percent of the mix. Seed should be placed ¼ to ½ inch deep.

Seedbed preparation should begin the year prior to spring planting to reduce weed problems during the first year of establishment. Work the site as necessary during the summer or early fall prior to establishment to create a firm weed-free seedbed. Work should be completed in the fall to allow time for the soil to settle and accumulate moisture. Minimum and no-till operations should use herbicide applications to control weeds.

Plantings should be well established before livestock grazing is permitted. Twelve months of grazing deferment should give plants enough time to become established. Established stands of Haskell sideoats grama should not be grazed lower than 4 inches, depending upon the prescribed grazing system. Contact your local U.S. Department of Agriculture-NRCS field office for assistance in planning and applying prescribed grazing plans.

Soil tests should be conducted to determine the amount of fertilizer applied to sustain a medium level. Nitrogen should not be used during the establishment year because it will encourage weed growth. Weeds may be controlled by mowing or with herbicides. Consult your local extension weed specialist for recommendations on herbicides for sideoats grama.

Seed and Plant Production
Sideoats grama is harvested by either direct combining, swathing and combining, or a seed stripper. Average seed yield is 256pounds per acre.

Availability
For conservation use: Commercial seed is available from several commercial seed companies.

For seed or plant increase: Breeder seed will be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, Knox City, Texas and is available to seed growers through the Texas Foundation Seed Service in Vernon, Texas, phone number (940) 552-6226.

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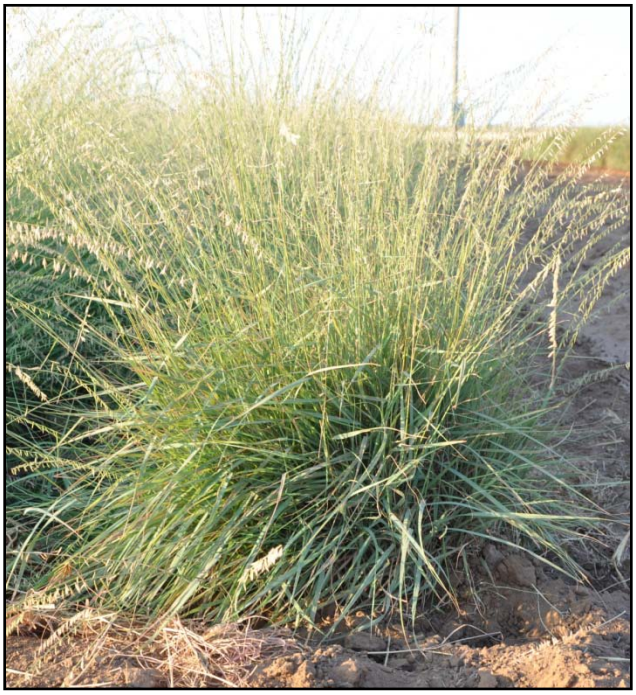
For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>



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