

ELLIOTT'S BLUESTEM

Andropogon gyrans Ashe var.
gyrans

Plant Symbol = ANGYG

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data
Center



Line drawing reprinted from Hitchcock, A.S. 1950.
Manual of the grasses of the United States. USDA Misc.
Pub. No. 200, U.S. Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Alternate Names

Andropogon campyloracheus, *Andropogon elliottii*,
Andropogon elliottii var. *gracilior*, *Andropogon*
elliottii var. *projectus*, *Andropogon subtenuis*.

Uses

Elliott's bluestem is grazed readily by cattle during spring and early summer. Forage quality is relatively high when green. Protein concentrate should be provided when grazed during dormant season.

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

Elliott's bluestem is a warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height is usually 2-1/2 to 3 feet. The leaf blade is 6 to 15 inches long, smooth except for cluster of hair just above ligule. The leaf sheath is a basal sheath that is keeled, overlapping, relatively narrow; and has rounded upper sheaths. The stem is erect; 1 to 6 per plant, branching near top. The seedhead is a raceme, partially enclosed in conspicuous enlarged spathe, which turns a rusty color when plant matures.

Management

Although of fair grazing value, this grass is seldom, if ever, abundant enough to be a key management species. It usually makes up no more than 3 to 5 percent of the plant composition. Proper grazing of more plentiful associated grasses maintains proper percentage of this grass in the plant community.

Establishment

New growth starts in early spring but most of growth is made during spring and summer. Seedheads develop during fall, and seedstalks remain for several months. Distinctive seedhead clusters make plants conspicuous after maturity. Grows best in open areas but tolerates some shade. Adapts primarily to well-drained soils on uplands and does not tolerate wet sites.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

References

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- Gay, C. & D. Dwyer 1965. *New Mexico grasses*. New Mexico State University. Circ. 374. 85 pp.

Plant Materials <<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>

Plant Fact Sheet/Guide Coordination Page <<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/pfs.html>>

National Plant Data Center <<http://npdc.usda.gov>>

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Prepared By & Species Coordinator:

Percy Magee, USDA, NRCS National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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