

SUDANGRASS

- **Very large biomass producer- 4-8 DM tons/acre**
- **Ideal for grazing and hay operations- easier to dry down than sorghums**
- **Known for quick re-growth ability**
- **Good prevent plant option because it's compatible over multiple environments and soil types**

Description:

Sudangrass is a midsummer grass meant for short, 8-10 week plantings. Due to its narrow stems and earlier seeding window, sudangrass is easier to grow than sorghum-sudangrass. Dense sowing helps suppress root knot nematodes and weed germination. Sudangrass has abundant root biomass, and can help increase soil organic matter. Root growth can be encouraged with additional mowing.

Planting Time: May-July

Non-Forage Benefits:

1 = Poor; 5 = Excellent

- **Compaction Alleviation:** 4
- **Weed Suppression:** 5
- **Biomass Production:** 5
- **Erosion Control:** 4
- **Disease/Pest Control:** 4
- **Pollinator/Beneficials:** 3
- **P & K Cycling:** 3
- **Ease of Establishment:** 4

Seeding Rate:

Mono (lbs./acre): 20-45

Mix (lbs./acre): -

Forage (lbs./acre): 20-45

Seeding Info:

Carbon/Nitrogen Ratio (C:N): -

Seeding Depth (in./with drill): 1/2-1

Seeds/lb.: 43,000

Bulk Density (lbs./ft.³): 40

Aerial Application Rate: Not Rated

Germination Soil Temp.: 65 F

USDA Hardiness Zone: Frost

Days to Emergence: 3-5

AVOIDING NITRATE AND PRUSSIC ACID POISONING

Nitrate Toxicity is common when fertility or manure applications are followed by a period of drought or stress. Cut plants do not lessen in their nitrate levels as they cure. If high levels are suspected, forage should be tested for a period of a few weeks until levels subside. Though often linked to summer annual grasses, increased nitrate levels can show up in most cover crops and forages.

- Nitrates are concentrated more in the lower stalk- raising cutting height can reduce the risk
- When a stressful drought precedes a moisture event, it is recommended to delay harvest by 1-2 weeks
- Consider split applications of nitrogen (especially useful on summer annuals) to decrease nitrate accumulations

Prussic Acid poisoning can occur when feeding forage sorghums after periods of drought or other stress, including frost. Toxic levels dissipate usually after 2-3 weeks and will further decrease when ensiled. Prussic acid is most concentrated in new growth, so sorghum forages should not be grazed until they are at least 18 in. tall. Storing hay or silage for at least 30 days generally dissipates the concern.

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