

Sorghastrum nutans

Indian Grass

Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance

Prefers mesic prairie zone. Species has no inundation tolerance.

Wildlife Value

Palatable and very nutritious to grazing species. Attracts butterflies. Provides cover for small mammals and songbirds.

Application/Zone

Dense, tangled root system binds soil well and can stabilize upland slope buffers. Slows runoff.

Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance

- Propagation by seed is best. Can be planted in the fall or late April to June.
- Debearding produces free-flowing seed that can usually be sown by drill or by hand broadcasting but debearding is not necessary.
- This species is first to establish matrix in prairie restorations, then reduces dominance and gives way to Big Bluestem after 3 - 5 years.
- Be cautious of non-local seed and hybrids.

Indian Grass

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Mature Height

4-8 feet

Plant Type

Perennial grass

Indicator Status

Facultative Upland (+)

pH

Wide range

Nutrient Load Tolerance

Low

Salt Tolerance

Not available

Siltation Tolerance

Low to moderate

Flowering Color and Time

Golden brown

August to September

Light Preference

Full sun

Seeding Rate

2.5 - 6.0 lbs/acre

