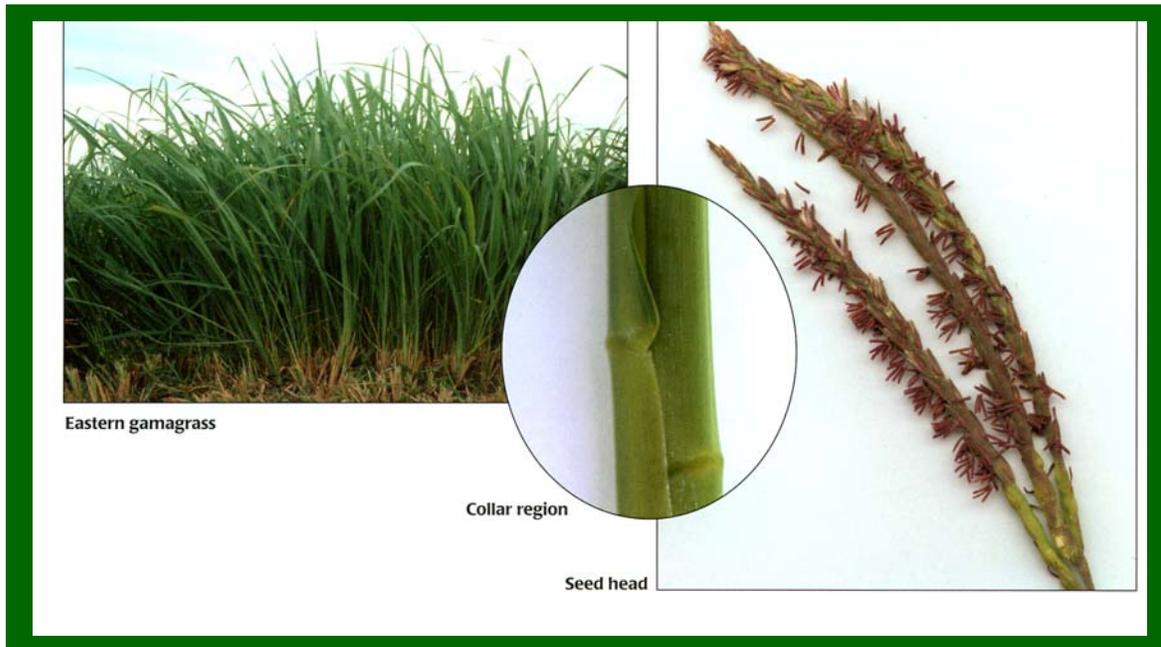


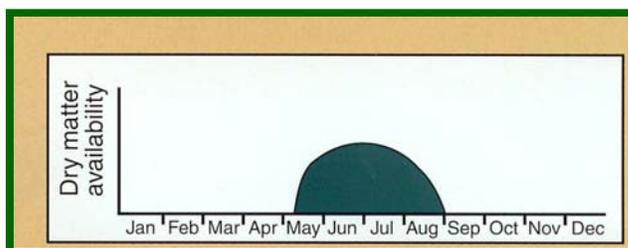
Eastern Gamagrass

Eastern gamagrass is a native perennial warm season bunchgrass. It possesses good quality compared to other native warm season perennials and has a more even growth pattern over summer. Research is underway to determine successful establishment methods for Virginia.



Physical characteristics of eastern gamagrass

- Native, perennial warm season bunchgrass
- Wide leaves, rough edges
- Grows 3 to 8 feet tall
- Major uses are pasture and hay
- Good nutritive quality
- Difficult to establish
- Seed dormancy requires special treatment



Recently harvested eastern gamagrass. Note the bunchy growth.

Source for graphics and photos: [A Guide to the Common Forages and Weeds of Pastures](#), MU Extension, University of Missouri - Columbia

Establishment: Pay attention to details

Date: Plant wet chilled seed 1 to 1.5” deep after the soil T reaches 60 to 65⁰ F. Needs rain and/or moist soil after planting to prevent re-hardening of seed. Do not allow treated seed to dry out before planting as it will revert to dormancy. Alternatively, dormant seed can be sown in November-December.

Soils: prefers deep, well drained soils

Rate: Plant 8 – 10 lbs PLS*/acre in April – May

Method: Drill in 6-10” rows using conventional or no-till drill
Use a corn planter in 30-36” rows; split rows for narrower planting

Fertility: No N at planting but apply 50 lbs N/Acre after emergence
P and K per soil test

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

Management: rotationally graze

Fertility: high fertility requirement; responds well to N
50 lbs N/A in spring when grass is 3 to 5 inches tall and every 6 weeks thereafter
Phosphorus and Potassium to soil test

Seasonal production is June through August

Grazing: begin at 24-30” and end at 10-12” height

Haying: harvest 2-3 times/year in vegetative to early head stages down to 10-12”
Do not hay or graze after September 15

Yields 3-7 tons hay/Acre



Eastern gamagrass established in 2003 near Warsaw, VA.



Eastern gamagrass established 8 years ago in Craig County, VA.

* PLS = pure live seed

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