

(Seed and Forage Production cont'd)

In a three year forage study at the East Texas Plant Materials Center, Medina produced an average of 15,800 lbs/acre of dry matter yield (on a sandy loam soil, a 45 day cutting interval, and 250 lbs. N/ acre rate).

Availability

Seed of Medina eastern gamagrass release is available through the Texas Foundation Seed Service, <http://tfss.tamu.edu> or (940) 552-6226 for commercial seed growers.

For More Information

Visit our Plant Materials Internet Site at <http://Plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find information about using plants to solve conservation needs.

References:

Hitchcock, A.S. and A. Chase. Manual of the Grasses of the United States, USDA, Misc. Pub. 200, 1951.

NRCS, Plant Materials Program. Eastern gamagrass intercenter strain trial in the Southeastern United States 1996-1998.

USDA.NRCS.2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA

USDA-NRCS
East Texas Plant Materials Center
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Consult with your local natural resource specialist about including this plant in your specific planting plan.

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United States Department of Agriculture



'Medina' eastern gamagrass release



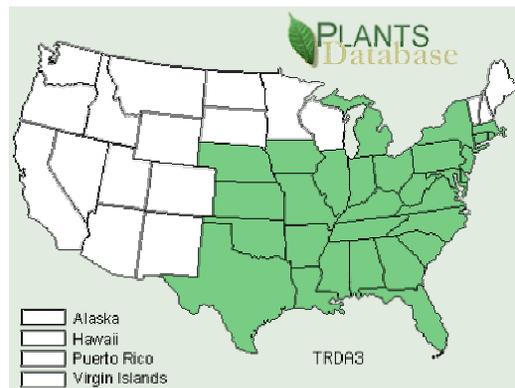
**A conservation plant released by the
USDA/NRCS East Texas
Plant Materials Center
Nacogdoches, Texas**

'Medina' eastern gamagrass release

'Medina' eastern gamagrass, *Tripsacum dactyloides*, is a native warm season perennial grass. Eastern gamagrass was once a prominent prairie grass. Presently, this grass is mainly in isolated areas away from grazing animals and farming activities.

Cooperating parties in the release of Medina are the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of east Texas and northwestern Louisiana, Stephen F. Austin State University and the U.S. Forest Service.

Medina eastern gamagrass is recommended for livestock forage, conservation buffers, and restoration of natural areas.



Map of historic occurrence of eastern gamagrass species



From Manual of the Grasses of the United States, by A.S. Hitchcock

Description

Medina eastern gamagrass plants are approximately six to seven feet tall. The leaves are flat and average 29 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ " inches wide with a medium green color. The inflorescence consists of 1 or 2 racemes about 9 inches long. The plants reach dormancy in December. However, dormancy may not be complete if the winter is mild.

Origin

Seed of Medina release was collected from a native stand in Medina County, Texas by NRCS employee Elgin Weimers.

Adaptation

Medina is best adapted to central Texas, eastward to Louisiana, Mississippi to

Georgia. The plant is adapted to fine, medium, or coarse soils. Deep sandy soils are not recommended.

Establishment

Medina eastern gamagrass is established by seed using a drill or planter. Plant the seed between 1" to 2" deep into a firm seedbed. The seeding rate is 10 lbs. PLS (pure live seed) per acre for monocultures. Seeding rates should be adjusted accordingly for mixtures.

Seed is planted in the winter or spring. The winter planting will undergo a natural stratification. Emergence of naturally stratified seed may not be uniform. Spring plantings are more successful if the seeds are pretreated before planting. Pretreatment consists of cool, moist stratification. A fungicide should be used to control molds and fungus.

Management

Control weeds with labeled herbicides. If the stand is mowed the first year to control weeds, leave a stubble height of at least 8 inches. An 8 inch stubble height should be maintained when grazed by livestock also. A balanced fertilized will increase plant and stand vigor.

Seed and Forage Production

A well managed stand of Medina normally produces a seed crop in the second growing season.

