

A Conservation Plant Released by the Natural Resources Conservation Service
Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, Los Lunas, NM

'Llano'

Indiangrass

Sorghastrum nutans
(L.) Nash



'Llano' Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

'Llano' Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans* (L.) Nash) was released in 1963 by the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center and the New Mexico State University Agricultural Science Center.

Description

Llano Indiangrass is a perennial, warm-season, native grass. It is a tall, erect, deep-rooted, long-lived bunchgrass that grows in individual bunches that increase in diameter by short, scaly rhizomes. Plants are quite uniform, with stem heights of 5 to 6 feet and having good leaf production carrying up to 4 feet on stems.

Source

Original seed was collected from Hudson and Clovis, New Mexico, on a deep, sandy site at an elevation of 4,000 feet where the annual average precipitation is 16 inches.

Conservation Uses

Llano Indiangrass is an excellent forage source. Under irrigation, Llano has averaged 7,000 pounds per acre dry weight and clipped to a 6-inch stubble height. It is also an excellent warm-season pasture grass which offers a dual-purpose opportunity for seed growers.

Llano Indiangrass is good for restoration of disturbed prairie areas and longleaf pine understory sites. It can be incorporated into a plant community that attracts pollinators.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Llano Indiangrass is well adapted to sandy plains sites and deep sand sites of the Southwestern Great Plains where the annual rainfall is 16 inches or more. Plantings of Llano in eastern New Mexico and Colorado have had good results.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Rangeland plantings require soil temperatures to be 50°F or above for germination to occur. Optimum planting time is May to late June:

- Planting bed should be moist, firm, and free of weeds.
- For drilled seeding, use 6 to 8 lbs pure live seed (PLS) per acre. For broadcast seeding, use 10 PLS lbs.
- Plant seeds 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch deep, ensuring there is good seed-to-soil contact. Packing the soil is important, especially if seeding is done by broadcasting.
- Fertilize with moderate amounts of phosphorus and potassium for establishment. Fertilize with nitrogen only after stands have become established.

Ecological Considerations

During wet summers, rust can attack Indiangrass. During dry summers, Army worms may become a problem.

Seed and Plant Production

For seed production purposes, plant seed in late spring to early summer when the soil temperature reaches 50° or above:

- Plant 4 PLS lbs per acre.
- Plant in rows 3-feet apart and no deeper than 1/2 inch.
- Apply 80 to 100 lbs nitrogen only after plants have become established.
- Harvest mature seed (seed heads will be open and take on a fuzzy appearance) with an all-type crop combine.

Availability

Breeder seed is produced and maintained by the USDA-NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, Los Lunas, New Mexico. Foundation seed is available to certified growers through New Mexico State University Seed Certification.

For more information, contact:
Los Lunas Plant Materials Center
1036 Miller Road
Los Lunas, NM 87031
Tel: 505-865-7340
FAX: 505-865-5163
<https://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/nmpmc>

Citation

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>



United States Department of Agriculture

This is a joint release between New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

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