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Elida

SAND BLUESTEM

- ADAPTED TO SANDY LANDS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN GREAT PLAINS
- EXCELLENT FORAGE PRODUCTION
- HIGH SEED YIELDS
- EXCELLENT SEEDLING VIGOR
- PROMISING WARM-SEASON IRRIGATED PASTURE GRASS
- FOUNDATION SEED AVAILABLE TO GROWERS

Cooperative Extension Service
New Mexico State University

ELIDA SAND BLUESTEM

Elida, a new variety of sand bluestem, *Andropogon hallii* Hack., released by the New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, is a tall, native grass that spreads from short rhizomes. The original seed was collected from a sand dune area southeast of Elida, New Mexico. Elida has been planted and evaluated since 1957. In evaluation plantings in eastern New Mexico, the new variety was superior to Woodward, an earlier variety of sand bluestem.

AREA OF ADAPTATION

Elida is recommended for planting on sandy soils in the Southwestern Great Plains area where the annual precipitation is 14 inches or more. This grass is also adapted to production as a warm-season, irrigated pasture grass. It can be grown on a wide variety of soils under irrigation.

SEED PRODUCTION

Elida is one of the highest seed producers of all strains of sand bluestem tested. At the Plant Materials Center. Middle Rio Grande Branch Station, Los Lunas, the new variety has averaged 180 pounds of pure live seed per acre, 60 percent more than the production from Woodward.

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Elida produced more forage per acre than any other sand bluestein strain tested at the Center. In range plantings, production from the new variety was estimated to be 5 percent to 20 percent over that of other sand bluestems.

SEEDLING VIGOR

Seedling vigor of Elida was very good in range trial plantings and in strain comparison plantings at the Center.

DISEASES AND INSECTS

No diseases have been observed on Elida, either in range test plantings or in seed production blocks. Insect control may be required in certain years in seed production plantings.

TIPS ON SEED PRODUCTION

Plant far enough from other sand bluestems to avoid cross-pollination.

Plant 2 to 4 pounds of pure live seed per acre, in late spring or early summer when soil is warm.

Plant in rows about 36 inches apart. Space the rows to accommodate conventional cultivating equipment. Plant about 1/2 inch deep.

Place rows on beds or beside shallow furrows so that seedbed can be kept moist by irrigation without getting water directly on the row until the plants are up and growing.

Apply 80 to 120 pounds of available nitrogen on established stands at the time of the first irrigation in late spring.

Watch for insect infestation as seed heads begin to appear and apply insecticicles if seed heads are being damaged.

Harvest the seed when the grass becomes straw colored. The tips or ends of seed heads should be mature, dry, and brittle so that dry kernels can be rubbed or squeezed out from many of these tips.

Elida may be combined directly from the field. Seed material thus harvested must be spread and dried before sacking. Some species of tall grass, such as this, are also harvested by binders, shocked tor curing, and then threshed.

Good grazing is afforded by the forage left in field from harvesting arid the aftermath.

SEED SUPPLY

Foundation seed of Elida sand bluestem is available from the Plant Materials Center, Middle Rio Grande Branch Station, Los Lunas, New Mexico. Soil and Water Conservation Districts have this seed available without charge for recognized seed growers to produre certified seed hut not for general planting in 1964.

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