

## Where to Obtain Information

Contact your local USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service Office for more information.

Visit our Plant Materials Internet Site at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Plant Materials Center

# Cottle County Germplasm Sand Bluestem



An improved  
conservation plant  
selected by the James  
E. "Bud" Smith Plant  
Materials Center, Knox  
City, Texas



## Cottle County Germplasm sand bluestem

### *Andropogon hallii*

**Cottle County Germplasm is released as a select class of certified seed (naturally selected track).**

#### Origin

Cottle County Germplasm was originally collected in 1982 from native plants located along US Highway 62/70 in western Cottle County approximately 14 miles west of Paducah, TX. Elevation at the collection site is approximately 1900 feet; the soil at the collection site is classified as a Miles fine sandy loam. Average precipitation for the area is around 24 inches. The collection site is located in MLRA 78B - Rolling Plains, Western Part.

#### Potential Uses

Cottle County Germplasm may be used in pure stands for pasture and hay plantings or as a component in seed mixtures for range seeding. Its forage value is fair to good while young and tender. After seed heads mature, forage is fair for livestock. Wildlife can utilize the plants and seed for food. The plants provide good ground nesting cover for quail.

Cottle County Germplasm maybe utilized for filter strips, field borders, contour buffer strips, and erosion control plantings on sandy soils.

#### Plant Description

Cottle County Germplasm is a native, perennial, warm-season, long-lived bunchgrass. Cottle County Germplasm resembles big bluestem but has creeping rhizomes. Sand bluestem has a deep fibrous root system. Cottle County Germplasm like other native bluestems takes two years to establish and produce seed. Sand bluestem will occurs with big bluestem on tighter soils, but sand bluestem is usually the predominate species on sandier soils especially deep sand sites.



#### Area of Adaptation

Cottle County Germplasm is adapted in Texas and Oklahoma where sand bluestem is commonly found. Cottle County sand bluestem grows well on deep, sandy, and fine-textured soils. Cottle County is not adapted to saline sites or wet bottomlands

#### Establishment

Seedbed preparation should begin the year prior to a scheduled spring seeding. This will greatly increase your chances of not having severe weed problems the first year. Work should be completed in the fall to allow time for the site to settle and accumulate moisture.

In areas of high erosion potential it is recommended to establish a dead litter cover crop the year prior to planting.

Cottle County Germplasm is best planted using a grass drill adapted to handle fluffy seeds. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily covered by a drill, but some type of additional soil disturbance is necessary to insure seed-to-soil contact.

Seed should be planted no more than 1/4 inch deep on fine texture soils and to no more than 1/2 inch deep on coarse soils. On a straight seeding basis for drilling or broadcasting, 6.0 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre should be planted. When planting in mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of sand bluestem in mixture.

#### Management

Plantings should be well established before livestock grazing is permitted. Established stands of Cottle County should not be grazed or cut lower than 10 inches.

Prior to planting, soil fertility should be brought up to a medium level with the addition of P and K. Do not add more than 10 Lbs. of N per acre until the stand is established.

#### Availability of Plant Materials

Generation 0 seed (equivalent to Breeder seed) will be maintained by the Plant Materials Center at Knox City. Field production (G1) seed for grower increase is available through the Texas Foundation Seed Service, Vernon, TX (940) 552-6226.