



Bluegrama

BLUEGRAMA(*Bouteloua gracilis*) is a major, warm-season grass found throughout the Great Plains. The plant is fairly short, reaching 10 to 20 inches with narrow basal leaves of 3 to 6 inches. Blue Grams grows in definite bunches and reproduces by tillering and by seed. Mature seed heads are curved, resembling a human eyebrow. **Blue Grama** can be found growing in association with Buffalograss Western Wheatgrass, Needlegrasses and some areas the Blue Grasses.



FACTS ABOUT BLUEGRAMA:

- In southern states, Blue Grama grows as a bunchgrass; in northern states or areas of heavy grazing pressure, it is a sod former.
- In years of good growing conditions, Blue Grama may produce 2 or 3 crops of seeds.
- Blue Grama is considered good to excellent forage for all classes of livestock and wildlife.
- Blue Grama grows on a wide range of soils. is well adapted to clayey, rolling and upland soils.
- Growth begins in May or June reaching maturation in two months.
- Blue Grama is suitable for mixtures of grasses used in erosion control, low maintenance turf plantings and surface mine revegetation.
- Blue Grama demonstrates good drought, fair salinity and moderate alkalinity tolerances. It will also tolerate burning (if in the dormant state). Blue Grama will not tolerate dense shade, flooding, a high water table or acid soils.

VARIETIES:

LOVINGTON is a good forage and seed producer that is well adapted to areas of 12 or more inches of precipitation in eastern New Mexico, southeastern Colorado and western Kansas. It was selected for its outstanding seedling vigor and forage production, and grows best on upland sites with medium to fine-textured soils. Seed maturity is very dependent on moisture availability at critical stages in the spring and early summer. Forage yield is higher than other **Blue Grama** varieties and it is free of diseases.

HACHITA is a cultivar released by the Soil Conservation Service in New Mexico. It has outperformed other **Blue Gramas** in production (seed and forage), drought tolerance and ease of establishment under droughty conditions. Hachita performs well at higher elevations and has a minimum precipitation requirement of 10 inches.

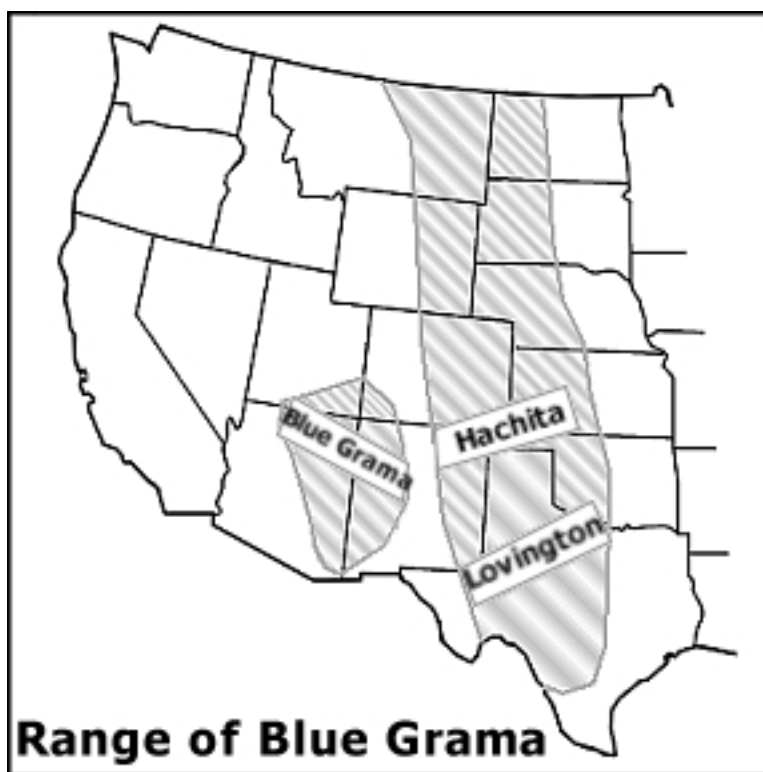
BLUE GRAMA(Native Northern)

BLUE GRAMA(Native Southern)

ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT

As with all native grasses, proper ground preparation is one of the most important considerations. The seedbed should be firm but not solid: cultivation to kill the roots of cool-season grasses is essential. Planting may be done by either drilling or broadcasting, with the seed being covered with no more than 1/4 to 1/2 inches deep at a rate of 1 to 3 pounds PLS/acre. Seeding in late spring is recommended in the Great Plains, somewhat earlier further south. In the Southwest, seeding should be done during the period from June 15 to July 15. Mulching and irrigation is recommended on harsh sites. Soil tests should be made to test the soils for deficiencies. **Blue Grama** will tolerate soils that are low in nutrients better than acidic conditions. Planting should be done by a native grass seed drill. In western areas plant **Blue Grama** in a sorghum cover crop (in stubble or in with the crop itself).

Once the grass is established, it is very palatable to livestock all year long. Since growing points are at or near the ground surface, the grass withstands fairly close grazing. For best yields, defer grazing every 2 to 3 years during the growing season. It cures well on stem, making it a good grass for grazing during the dormant season. Renovation of sodbound stands is also recommended. Weeds can be controlled by use of herbicides, mowing or controlled grazing. Seed yields can reach 150 to 200 pounds per acre under irrigation and cultivation.



Copyright 1997 Sharp Bros. Seed Co. All rights reserved.
No print or pictures can be used without the expressed written consent of Sharp Bros. Seed Co.