



## Sand Bluestem

**SAND BLUESTEM** is a native, warm-season perennial tall grass. It forms a dense sod in the sandy soils in which it is normally found. Growth begins in April with maturity reached in October. It is fairly palatable to livestock, but will not tolerate close grazing. **Sand Bluestem** prefers the drier climates, so the largest native stands are in the western parts of the Great Plains, north to Canada, and south to Texas.

### FACTS ABOUT SAND BLUESTEM:

- **Sand Bluestem is very similar to Big Bluestem, but is adapted to sandy-land soils.**
- **Sand Bluestem is important for erosion control.**
- **It is fairly drought resistant, but is low in salt tolerance.**
- **Large amounts of Sand Bluestem hay is harvested when grown on favorable sites.**
- **Abusive grazing can eliminate this grass totally.**
- **Sand Bluestem is easily established from seeding.**



### VARIETIES:

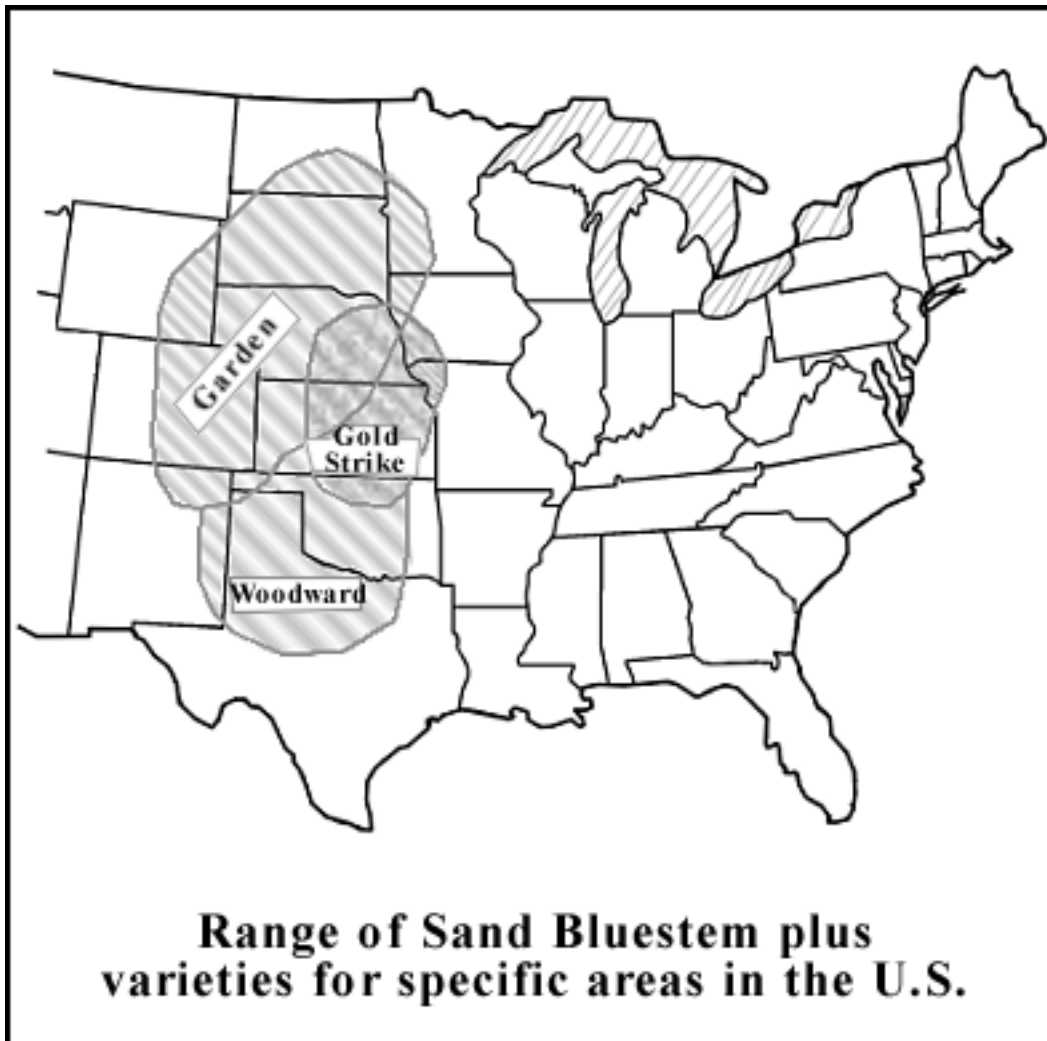
**Garden** is a composite of several collections of native grasses collected from Nebraska and South Dakota. Garden produces good, tall, leafy plants with good seed yields.

**Goldstrike** is a forage grass variety developed by the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station. It is a long-lived, perennial variety, that gives maximum production in the mid-summer. It shows its best growth on sandy or loamy soil. Used for roadside plantings, Goldstrike rates high in soil stabilization ability.

**Woodward** is a variety found to be superior to native plants in flower production, seed setting, and leafiness. It is considered to be of superior quality in seed production.

## **ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT**

The usual management practices for warm-season grasses apply to **Sand Bluestem**. The seed needs to be conditioned in order to be seeded in common grassland. The seed bed should be firm and moist for good seed to soil contact. Soil deficiencies should be determined by a soil test, and quality seeds from a reputable distributor such as SHARP BROS. SEED CO. should be utilized. After the stand has been established, grazing should be closely watched in order to protect the stand. If it is grazed closer than the 6 to 8 inch level during the growing season, **Sand Bluestem** will decrease in dominance, and be replaced by less desirable plants. If soil nutrients are lacking, lime, phosphorus, etc should be applied before the planting. A stubble of some length must remain after the grazing season to protect the roots during the winter in order to insure healthy regrowth the following spring.



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