



SUDANGRASS

Sorghum

Purpose & Fit

With very high levels of crude protein and digestible nutrients, the mean minimum standards for ruminant nutrition are met on a sudangrass diet. Sudangrass is an excellent fit for producers requiring short rotations. In regions with hot, dry summers, sudangrass will have a higher carrying capacity than other grasses or legumes. Utilize sudangrass as an emergency crop should another crop fail.

Growth Pattern

Growing between 4 ft. – 7 ft. tall, sudangrass has numerous light green leaves between 4 cm. – 22 cm. long and 8 cm. – 15 cm. wide with 1/4" stems. Sudangrass produces many tillers speeding regrowth if injured.

Climate & Soil

While being tolerant of drought, extended periods will cause wilting. Not a friend of the cold, sudangrass will go dormant in the winter if not winterkilled outright.

Planting

Sow sudangrass when there is no chance of frost for the area. Sudangrass does well when no-tilled into stubble in 6" – 7" row spacing for hay harvest or 18" – 20" in rows for grazing. Stagger planting dates to gain flexibility with maturity stages for grazing or green-chop harvest.

Grazing

While sudangrass does have the potential to cause prussic acid poisoning, risks can be managed by waiting to graze or cut for green chop until the plant is at least 18" – 20" tall. Avoid allowing animals to graze on sudangrass after a drought or for ten days after a killing frost. Dhurrin, the chemical that causes prussic acid poisoning, is highest in young plants, which may still emerge after a drought or frost.

Quick Data

Seeds/LB:
40,000 – 43,000

Optimum Growth Range:
60°F+

Seeding Depth:
0.75" - 2.00" Depth

Min Time To Emergence:
10 days

Planting Rate (Monoculture):
20 Lb/A - 30 Lb/A

Tons of Dry Matter an Acre:
3 - 5