

Blue Grama

(*Bouteloua gracilis*)



Growth Habit

Blue Grama is a native, warm season grass. It is a low growing sod forming grass, with a fibrous root system and short scaly rhizomes. Its height is usually 20-40cm. **Blue Grama** is a long lived perennial.

Adaptation

In Alberta, **Blue Grama** can be found in the southern half of the province with the greatest prevalence on the Eastern side.

Blue Grama has a very good drought tolerance, requiring a minimum of 8 inches of annual precipitation. It is adapted to most soil textures from sand to clay; but it does perform best on loam to clay textures. It prefers neutral or slightly alkaline soils and is tolerant of a fair amount of salinity. **Blue Grama** has poor tolerance to flooding.

Reclamation Uses

Blue Grama is best suited for reclaiming areas where drought and salt tolerance are essential and slow establishment is not a concern. Once established, **Blue Grama** is a good soil stabilizer because of its strong root system. It is very low growing and will work well in low maintenance situations.

Forage produced from **Blue Grama** is of high quality and livestock will gain well on it.

Seedling Vigor and Establishment

Blue Grama is difficult to establish. Germination is good, but seedling vigor is poor. Plant spreads well by tillers.

Quick Facts

| Growth Habit | Flooding Tolerance | Drought Tolerance | Salt Tolerance | Soil pH | Soil Type | Seeds per lb. |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Low growing Sod forming Strong root system | Poor | Excellent | Good | Neutral- Basic | Loam- Clay loam | 711,000- 850,000 |