

Eastern Gamagrass

Tripsacum dactyloides



Description

Coarse, tall-growing, highly palatable, native warm-season perennial bunchgrass with thick rhizomes. Grows 4 to 6 feet tall.

Uses

Pasture, hay, and haylage.

Advantages

High yields and highly palatable to livestock. More even growth over entire season than switchgrass, big bluestem, or indiangrass. Will grow on wet sites.

Disadvantages

Somewhat expensive to seed. Seed can have high levels of dormancy leading to slow, uneven emergence and establishment. Must be rotationally grazed and rested in fall to persist.

Seeding

Rate: 7-10 lb/a

Depth: 1 in

Date: Apr 15-Jun 15

Harvest

First harvest: Jun 15

Annual yield: 4-6 tons dry matter/a



Eastern gamagrass seed heads are segmented and form large seeds when mature, and its leaves extend all the way to the base of the plant, which forms a ring that expands as the plant gets older. Eastern gamagrass plants form a large, circular clump that expands as plants get older.