



DOUGLASS KING SEED CO.

King Ranch (K.R.) Bluestem (*Andropogon ischaemum*) (*Bothriochloa ischaemum*)

Native to much of Europe and Asia, an introduced grass selected from a volunteer stand that escaped from early trial seeding on the King Ranch, in Kingsville, Texas. A perennial, warm-season mid-grass, forms good-sized semi-prostrate leafy tufts the first year, stems have few leaves. It tends to spread in pure stands, eliminating all competition except strong native grasses such as sideoats grama and little bluestem, yet is easily controlled under cultivation. Drought resistant and cold resistant, having withstood below-zero temperatures. It produces 2-3 seed crops each year, the first in early June. Forage attractive to livestock.

Establishment/Management: Plant in early spring, March-June, in very firm seedbed. Plant 1/4-1/2 inch deep, using ordinary cotton planter with pickerwheel attachment, or grass drill with boxes to handle fluffy seed. **Rows:** 1.0 PLS per acre in 36-42" rows. **Broadcast:** 2.0 PLS per acre.

On badly eroded fields, brush-eradicated areas and on bare tank dams, broadcast hammer-milled seed, pressing into soil with cultipacker or disk set straight.

Like native grasses, good rains after seeding or irrigation are necessary for rapid establishment. Control weeds until well established. Control grazing first year; rotate grazing and leave 6" stubble-height for higher production. Cut hay before seedheads are out of boot; harvest seed when 50% or more seedheads release to gentle pull, using any grain combine adjusted for grass seed harvest.

Adaptation/Use: Grows successfully over Texas and as far north as Oklahoma and Minden, Louisiana. Well adapted to the coastal country and Edwards Plateau, on light and heavy soils, acid and calcareous soils. Not well adapted to deep coarse sands, areas under 20-inch rainfall, or in the long-leaf pine areas. Performs like a native grass on rangeland areas and is very effective for forage as well as for protection on hill country shallow soils. Shows good results on steep, shallow soils when brush control is carried out.

Used for erosion control, grazing and hay, it improves and protects the soil, produces forage according to soil fertility, and helps increase native grasses.





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Douglass King Seed Company

Founded 1912

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**Please call or e-mail us for seed availability
and prices.**