



Bluestem, Medio

(*Andropogon nodosus*) (*Dichanthium aristatum*)

DOUGLASS KING SEED CO.

Introduced from India, first noticed on Medio Creek in Bee County, Texas by USDA Soil Conservation Service personnel in 1940; selected for increase in 1951. Characterized as warm-season, perennial, dark-green and leafy, with fine stems forming a dense turf. Numerous stems about 30" tall at seed maturity, it reproduces well by self-seeding and can spread rapidly by means of prostrate stems. Tolerant to low rainfall and alkaline soils. Rapid growth rather late in spring. Forage is extremely attractive to cattle both as pasture and hay, preferred over most native and introduced grasses. A very high forage and good seed producer.

Establishment/Management: Plant in clean, firm, well-prepared seedbed in early fall at least 6 weeks before frost, or early spring when ground becomes warm. Rows: 0:6-0.8 PLS per acre in 36"-42" rows. Drilled/Broadcast: 1.0-1.5 PLS per acre.

Plant in rows 1/4" deep; well-cleaned seed can be planted using ordinary chaffy grass methods. When broadcast in old fields, cover lightly; for range seeding, broadcast before chaining, or following root plowing. Fertilize according to soil test. Control weeds first season until prostrate stems begin to cross row middle; thereafter control by mowing. Defer grazing until plants well established; manage grazing so that no more than 3/4 of the leaves are removed. Mow hay during early bloom stage. Hay yields of 12-15 tons of air-dry hay, and up to 90,000 lbs. green weight per acre have been taken in the lower Rio Grande Valley under irrigation. Harvest seed by direct combining; or head the seed material, cure, then thresh. Seed yields are rather low -- 40-60 lbs. per acre.



Adaptation/Use: Best adapted to Rio Grande Plains, in Mexico, Blackland Prairie south and east of Austin, Texas and the Coastal Prairie. Grows well in south and southeast Texas as well as in the San Antonio and Uvalde areas. Grows best in clay soils, or sandy soils with shallow clay layer. Susceptible to winter kill north of Austin, Texas. Excellent for pasture, hay, silage, erosion control, in waterways and other wet areas. Good seed producer.



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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.**