

# Indiangrass

- ◆ Often chosen for beautification projects
- ◆ Moderately tolerant of acidic and saline conditions
- ◆ Grows from 5-7 feet tall
- ◆ Moderate shade tolerance
- ◆ Strong fire tolerance
- ◆ Excellent for wildlife nesting areas
- ◆ Great livestock forage grass



10-12 PLS lbs/Acre

April — May



# Indiangrass

## DESCRIPTION

Indiangrass is a native, warm-season grass of good value as a livestock forage grass. Production runs high when managed in a pure stand. Indiangrass may form patches of sod and occur in bunches; it endures a wide range of weather extremes and is easily established from seed. Suited to all soil types except those saturated for an extended period, Indiangrass is considered to be an excellent native grass for most purposes. Biologist's rate Indiangrass as excellent for nesting and rearing areas of wildlife.

## APPLICATION

Indiangrass is a native, perennial warm season bunch type grass that grows 3-5 feet in height and produces most heavily from July—September. It makes excellent hay and pasture in the hot summer months. Indiangrass is excellent for wildlife habitat, critical area seeding and as roadside beautification and erosion control. Indiangrass is winter hardy and will grow throughout the northern US. It grows best in deep, well drained soil, but is tolerant of moderately wet soil. Indiangrass has a light, fluffy seed that is difficult to get through most drills.

## USES

Uses for Indiangrass are many. It has a good livestock palatability as a forage grass, provides excellent cover for nesting wildlife & since it is soil tolerant the benefits of erosion control are many.

## SEEDING

**Rates:** 10—12 PLS lbs/Acre. on new seeding.

**Depth:** Plant the seed no more than 1/2 inch deep. Emerging seedlings lack the strength to push through too much overlying soil. More seed has been lost to poor planting practices than anything else; this is especially true of seed depth.

## CULTURAL PRACTICES

**Soil Preparation:** For the best conservation practice, no-till the seed into the stubble of a previous crop or the existing stand of another species that has been successfully eradicated. Pay close attention to previous land use practices. If a row crop has been planted for many years in succession a herbicide carryover is possible. If you feel you must plow up the site before planting, prepare your seedbed like you would for any other crop. The seedbeds need to be firm, not fluffy, so the seed will not be planted at an inappropriate depth. Use a cultipacker to firm your seedbed or some other type of roller that will create a smooth planting area that is not too hard.

**NPK requirement:** We do not recommend the use of fertilizer the first year, at least not nitrogen. Moderate levels of phosphorus and potassium are beneficial, especially for root establishment, which is a primary activity of the plant the first year. Use a soil test to help you decide that rate. Fertilizer may be applied the second year to enhance vigor and production of forage. It is not necessary to fertilize at all, but stand strength may be compromised without it.

**Weed Control:** We recommend a controlled burn every 1-3 years if possible. If not, then a mowing pattern should be established in order to control woody species invasion and prevent thatch build up. If you mow, mow no lower than 8 inches and no later than August 1.

**Grazing:** Rotational grazing or flash grazing is another good management tool. Care should be taken to prevent the livestock from grazing the warm season grass to a level that would not rebound after grazing. Use 6 inches as your stopping point and a re-growth of 12 inches.

## IDENTIFICATION

**Clum:** Erect hollow, 3-7 feet tall, nodes are fuzzy pubescent.

**Blades:** Flat, 2-24 inches long, .2—.5 inches wide, pointed, taper to a narrow base, very rough, often glaucous, prominent midrib near the base.

**Sheath:** Upper shorter than the internodes, usually glabrous. Very prominent “rabbit ear” auricles.

**Ligule:** Membranous, thick, stiff, 2-4 mm long, flanked by pointed auricles.

**Inflorescence:** Narrow, oblong panicles, 6-12 inches long, that are large, dense and bronze-yellow. The apex is often nodding. At first the panicles are open, but are contracted and darker after flowering.

**Spikelets:** Paired. Sessile spikelets hirsute 6-8 mm long, lanceolate, nearly circular in cross-section, perfect. Pedicellate spikelet represented merely by a hairy pedicel at one side of the sessile spikelet. The spikelets droop, are yellowish to reddish brown and covered with reddish brown hairs toward the base.

**Awn:** The .5—.75 inch awn is bent and is twisted up to the bending point. The awn is longer than the spikelet.



## Area of Adaptation

