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EC75-179 Certified Grass Varieties for Nebraska

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WHY USE CERTIFIED SEED?

Grasses important to Nebraska agriculture have been improved and selected for high production, disease resistance, and persistence. Grass breeding and improvement programs have produced varieties of these grasses which have performed significantly better than natural wild strains or seed introduced from other regions. Foundation seed of the recommended varieties has been made available to seed growers.

Certified Seed produced under the supervision of an official Crop Improvement Association assures you of the origin and genetic purity of a variety. Through use of Certified Seed such identity of variety can be verified. Farmers and ranchers cannot afford to gamble with grass seed of questionable or unknown origin and performance.

USE RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

This circular provides you a list of grasses with recommendations for planting in specific areas. Each area differs in climate and soil. Variety tests conducted by the Outstate Testing program have been reviewed in making these recommendations. The purpose of this list is to show the availability of superior varieties of grasses adapted to the areas designated.

A variety can be used in pure seedings or mixtures. Choosing of grass varieties for use should be based on seasonal needs of livestock as well as requirements of adaptation to the soil and climate of your farm or ranch.

Extension work in "Agriculture, Home Economics and subjects relating thereto," The Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Cooperating with the Counties and the U. S. Department ofAgriculture
J. L. Adams, Director

Varieties of Warm-Season Grasses for Use in Major Land Resource Areas of Nebraska[1]

Kind of grass and certified variety	Panhandle 60 64, 67, 72	Sandhills 65	North Central 63, 66	Southwest 72, 73	Central 71	South Central 73, 75	Northeast 102, 107N	Southeast 75, 106, 107S
Big and Sand bluestems								
Garden Co.	S	S	S	S	S	. . .	. . .	. . .
Goldstrike	S	S	S B	S B	S B	S	S B	S
Champ	S B I	H S B I	H S B I	S B I	H S B I	. . .	H S B	. . .
Pawnee	. . .	. . .	. . .	I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I
Kaw	. . .	. . .	. . .	I	B I	H S B I	. . .	H S B I
Little bluestem								
Camper	. . .	S B	H S B	H S B	H S B	H S B	H S B	H S B
Blaze	. . .	. . .	. . .	S B	S B	H S B	H S B	H S B
Aldous	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	H S B	. . .	H S B
Indiangrass								
Holt	S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W	S B I W	H S B I W	. . .	H S B I W	. . .
Nebraska 54	. . .	. . .	. . .	I W	S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W
Oto	. . .	. . .	. . .	I W	S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W
Sand lovegrass								
Nebraska 27	S B I	H S B I	S B I	S B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I
Side-oats grama								
Butte	H B I	H B I	H B I	H B I	H B I	. . .	H S	. . .
Trailway	. . .	. . .	. . .	B I	H B I	H S B I	H S B	H S B I
Switchgrass								
Nebraska 28	S B I W	H S B I W	S B I W	S B I W	H S B I W	. . .	H S B I W	. . .
Pathfinder	. . .	H S B I W	. . .	S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W	H S B I W

[1] Land resource areas are shown by number and identified by the accompanying map. Select varieties for use in each region and resource area as described in the footnote to the second table of varieties.

COMPLEMENTARY PASTURES PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY FORAGE FOR A MAXIMUM SEASON OF GRAZING

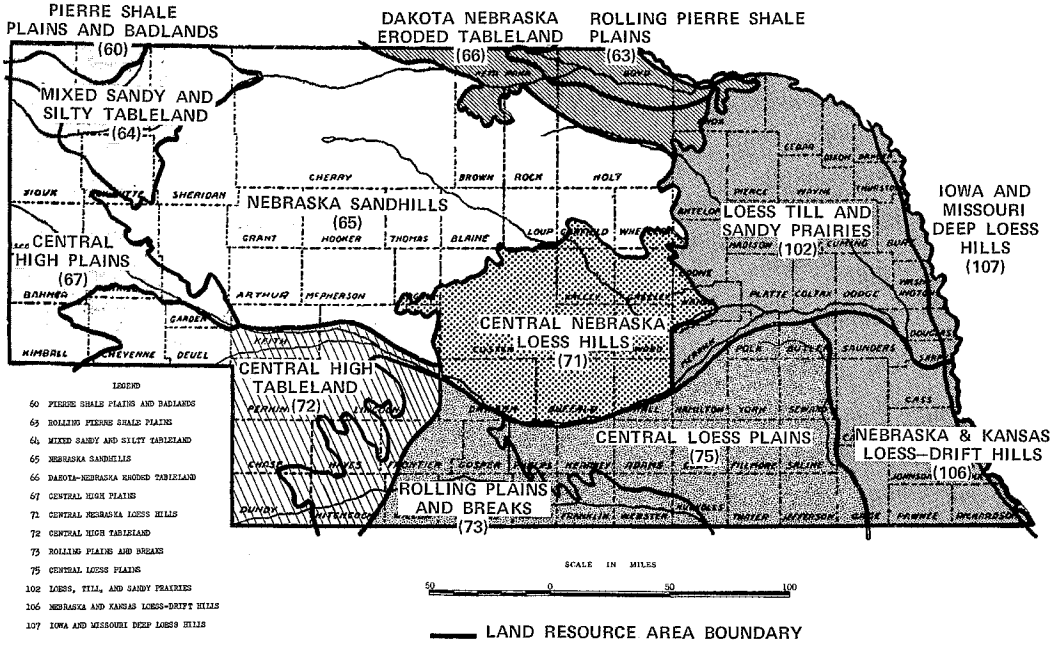
Research has demonstrated the need for both cool-season and warm-season pastures for maximum grazing use in Nebraska. Cool-season grasses grow during the cool season of spring and early summer. During this period of rapid growth most all of the water and nitrogen supply may be utilized. Regrowth occurs in late summer and early fall when rains and cool temperatures return.

Warm-season grasses grow rapidly during the warm summer months when they make efficient use of the available water and nitrogen. Maximum production of high quality forage for grazing occurs during the period when the cool-season grasses are maturing and providing only low quality pasture.

In resource areas where existing pastures are largely cool-season grasses such as bromegrass, a warm-season annual or a planting of warm-season perennials fills the gap to provide the needed summer grazing. Also, pastures of well fertilized cool-season grasses complement acreages of warm-season pastures or summer rangelands for season-long grazing. In some situations the early growth of cereal grains can be utilized for short cool periods of fall and early spring. But the annuals seldom are good substitutes for the productive perennials.

Success is accomplished by proper management. Use each grass as it becomes productive. Begin the grazing season with the cool-season pastures but do not start grazing until the grass is ready. Later, before stands are weakened, remove the cattle to warm-season pasture. A timely return to cool-season pasture or crop residues provides for suitable winter cover and moisture storage as well as the accumulation of food reserves for the next year.

MAJOR LAND RESOURCE AREAS FOR NEBRASKA



Varieties of Cool-Season Grasses for Use in Major Land Resource Areas of Nebraska[1]

Kind of grass and certified variety	Panhandle 60, 64, 67, 72	Sandhills 65	North Central 63, 66	Southwest 72, 73	Central 71	South Central 73, 75	Eastern 102, 106, 107
Smooth Bromegrass							
Lincoln	I	BI	BI	BI	HSBI	HSBI	HSBI
Lyon	I	BI	BI	BI	HSBI	HSBI	HSBI
Lancaster	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	HSBI	HSBI	HSBI
Orchardgrass							
Sterling, Napier	I	I	I	I	I	BI	HSBI
Reed Canarygrass							
Ioreed	IW	IW	IW	IW	IW	IW	HBIW
Crested Wheatgrass							
Nordan	HB	HB	HB	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Ruff	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	. . .	. . .
Russian Wildrye							
Vinall	HBI	HBI	HB	HBI	. . .	. . .	. . .
Intermediate Wheatgrass							
Slate	HSBI	HBI	HSBI	HSBI	HSBI	HSBI	HSBI
Tall Wheatgrass							
Platte	BIWA	BIWA	BIWA	BIWA	BIWA	BIWA	BIWA
Western Wheatgrass							
Flintlock	HBWA	HBWA	HBWA	HBWA	HBWA	HBWA	. . .

[1] Land resource areas are shown by number and identified by the accompanying map and description. Select varieties for use in each region and resource area as suggested by the following:

H = Hardlands: the finer-textured upland or terrace soils in an area.

S = Sandy soils: the coarser-textured soils of an area.

B = Bottomlands: lowlands, with relatively favorable moisture conditions, that do not remain excessively wet for long periods.

I = Irrigated lands.

W = Wet lands: poorly drained soils which have a high water table or are subject to frequent flooding.

A = Alkali or salty soils.

For further information consult your County Extension Agent and/or local SCS Technicians. Additional information can be found in these publications:

EC 71-135 Pure Live Seed . . . a Basis for Calculating Seed Requirements for Planting Grasses and Legumes

EC 68-161 Common Range Plants in Nebraska

EC 67-170 Nebraska Range and Pasture Grasses

EC 72-189 Forage Balance Sheets for Nebraska, a Guide for Planning and Analyzing a Year-Round Forage Program

EC 72-194 Fertilizer for Bromegrass Production

G 74-138 Seeding Warm-Season Grasses

G 74-139 Seeding Cool-Season Grasses

QR 4-71 Using Small Grains for Forage