



SUMMER ANNUAL FORAGES

SUDANGRASS

VARIETY: Piper

PREFERRED USES: Safest summer pasture. Lower prussic acid risk than Sorghum-Sudan hybrid. Great for creating forage crop in feed pens, calving lots.

ESTIMATED YIELD: 1.5 to 4 tons dry matter /acre

SEEDING DATE: Late May to early June when soil temperature is at 60 degrees or above. Better emergence and stands when temp is 65 to 70 degrees at 6 inch depth.

PLANTING RATE: Dryland 15 to 25 lbs. /acre
 Irrigated 20 to 35 lbs. /acre

(Adjust pounds according to seed size, and to achieve the stem size that will produce the desired quality of hay or grazing).

SEEDBED PREPARATION: Prepare a firm, weed-free seed bed and drill at 1" to 1 1/2" inch depth. (Note: Insure soil is free from carryover grass herbicides such as Dual, Lasso, and Treflan).

FERTILIZATION: Utilize soil tests to determine P & K and trace minerals needed. Apply 40 to 80 pounds of Nitrogen per acre. Split applications will lessen the nitrate poisoning potential.

WEED CONTROL: Planting in weed (emerged) free soil is best starting place. Weeds emerging after planting can be controlled by applications of atrazine (except in sandy soils) and 2, 4-D when crop is 8" to 12" tall. Other herbicides may be available. Contact local Extension Service.

HARVEST: Grazing after plants are 24 to 30 inches tall. Rotate livestock after plants are grazed down to 6". Stock pasture sufficiently to keep plants below 36" tall. **DO NOT PASTURE SHORT LUSH GROWTH AFTER DROUGHT OR WHEN PLANT IS PARTIALLY KILLED BY FROST.** Haying is best done when plants are 36 to 48 inches tall. Multiple cuttings are preferred to maintain quality of hay. Winter pasture by delaying planting until July 15th or later to best utilize higher nutritional values. This makes lower tonnage, but higher quality.