

Development of the Cultivar 'Medina' Eastern Gamagrass

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Abstract

One of the objectives of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) East Texas Plant Materials Center (PMC) near Nacogdoches, Texas is to develop adapted forages for livestock producers in eastern Texas and western Louisiana. Eastern gamagrass [*Tripsacum dactyloides* (L.) L.], a native warm season perennial bunchgrass, was chosen by the East Texas PMC Technical Committee in 1984 for study and evaluation as potential forage. An assembly of 86 accessions, representing 60 Texas counties, was evaluated in an initial evaluation nursery from 1988 to 1990 for vigor, foliage characteristics, seed production, and persistence. Accession 9043762, which originated from Medina County, Texas exhibited superior performance in vigor, foliage characteristics, seed production and persistence compared to other accessions in the initial evaluation nursery. Forage production evaluations of 9043762 conducted from 1992 to 1994 found, 9043762 produced an average dry matter yield of 15797 lb/acre when harvested every 45 days and fertilized at a rate of 250 lb N/acre. Dry matter yields of 9043762 were greater than other accessions in the forage production evaluation. In June 2000, 9043762 was cooperatively released by the East Texas PMC and Stephen F. Austin State University as the cultivar 'Medina' and assigned PI- 595897.

Key words: eastern gamagrass, 'Medina', dry matter production