



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Soil  
Conservation  
Service

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17  
C. J. Marks  
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TEXAS BULLETIN NO. TX190-1-12

SUBJECT: ECOL SCI - PLANT MATERIALS RELEASE OF 'LOMETA' INDIANGRASS

Purpose. To inform SCS employees of the release of 'Lometa' Indiangrass.

Expiration Date. July 1, 1982

'Lometa' Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans* (L.) Nash), previously carried at the Knox City Plant Materials Center as PMT-802, has been formally released for use in Texas by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the USDA Science and Education Administration, Agricultural Research, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. 'Lometa' was collected from a native stand on the Kirby ranch east of Lometa, Texas, by SCS personnel stationed at Lampasas, Texas.

'Lometa' indiangrass offers the following advantages over presently available commercial varieties:

1. Improved adaptation - Present indiangrass varieties are adapted only to the northern portion of Texas and stands fail to establish or are short-lived when planted further south in the State.
2. Superior forage production - Present indiangrass varieties bloom and set seed in midsummer in the north-central and southern portions of the State, while 'Lometa' extends this period for forage production.

'Lometa' appears to be best adapted on medium heavy to light textured soils for range mixtures in Texas on areas receiving 22 inches or greater natural rainfall. Soils west of this precipitation zone should either be irrigated or planted in overflow-bottomland sites. Approximate seeding rates are: 5 lbs PLS/Ac broadcast or drilled; 1.7 lbs PLS/Ac in 36- to 42-inch rows.

Seed is now being purchased by seed producers and, barring unforeseen problems, should be available in the spring of 1982. Leaflets will be prepared this fall for distribution next spring.

GEORGE C. MARKS  
State Conservationist

DIST: 0



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INDIAN GRASS (Sorghastrum nutans)

**DESCRIPTION:** A 3' - 8' tall, upright, native perennial, warm season bunch grass with short rhizomes and rather coarse stems. Panicle 8" - 12" long, bronze to yellow color. Leaves are coarse, blue to pea-green color.

**ADAPTATION:** Indian grass is found generally throughout the true and mixed prairie, especially in meadows and low lands along streams and sparingly in many of the sandy and clay upland ranges.

**PLANTING:**

**Rate:** In terms of pure live seed per acre:

- a. In rows 1.0 pounds.
- b. Broadcast 3.5 pounds,

**Time:** Seeding in close-drilled sorghum stubble should be made in the spring before weeds start growth. On clean tilled land, the seeding should be made later after the ground has become warmer and one or more crops of weeds have been killed.

**Methods:** Drilled or planted in rows, preferably in a dead, close drilled sorghum stubble. Where there is little danger of blowing or severe surface erosion by water, seedings may be made in clean tilled land which has been worked in such a manner as to leave the surface firm. In most instances, even where there is little danger of soil blowing, the use of a protective stubble and hay mulch would be found most satisfactory for the prevention of sheet erosion and "crusting" after seeding.

**Cover:** 1/2 to 1 inch.

**USES:** In mixtures with other tall grasses for the production of native hay or for grazing.

**MANAGEMENT:**

**Cultivation:** Mow as necessary to control weeds or cultivate as for any other crop if planted in rows.

**Grazing:** Decreases under heavy grazing. Very palatable, therefore good grazing management necessary for maintaining high vigor.

**Harvesting:** For seed - Combines well; or can be cut with binder when grain is in hard dough stage and threshed in combine or separator.

For hay - Cut when about 1/2 the seed heads are in bloom.

**Acre Yields:** Seed - Dryland 200 to 300 pounds, Irrigated - 500-800 pounds.