

# Sorghum-Sudangrass



## Benefits

- ◆ Compaction Reduction
- ◆ Erosion Control
- ◆ Nitrogen Scavenger
- ◆ Residue Persistence
- ◆ Weed and Nematode Suppressor
- ◆ Excellent Forage Quality and Grazing Value

## Seeding Date, Methods & Rate

**Drilled: 30-40# per acre**

**Broadcast: 40-50# per acre**

Plant after frost threat has passed in spring, soil temperatures of at least 60 degrees F are required for this cover crop to germinate. 10 days to emergence. 13,000-18,000 seeds per pound.

## Burndown

Maintain by mowing several times during the season before the crop seeds. Just prior to a killing frost, mow Sorghum-Sudangrass, finely chop it and then immediately till into the ground while still green. Due to the presence of weed-suppressing compounds in the freshly mowed crop, wait several weeks before planting crops.

## Expectations

**Also Called: Sudex, Sudax**

Sorghum-Sudangrass, a summer annual grass, is a fast-growing cover crop with an extensive root system that thrives in the heat of summer. Sorghum-Sudangrass grows so quickly, especially in temperate regions, that it creates a thick stand that cannot be penetrated by weeds. It's also very tolerant of heat and drought, making it hardy. And the first frost will kill it - so it's great to leave over winter as a dead residue to protect from soil erosion. Sorghum-Sudangrass is also excellent at penetrating compacted subsoil, improving the structure of the soil. It's often recommended to follow Sorghum-Sudangrass with a legume cover crop, such as clover, to restore soil health. Sorghum-Sudangrass adds a lot of biomass to the soil, partly because it grows so tall - 5 to 12 feet, with stalks up to a half-inch thick. Sorghum-sudangrass hybrids are unrivaled for adding organic matter to worn-out soils. Sorghum-sudangrass can produce more organic matter per acre, at a lower cost, than any other major cover crop grown in the USA. Followed by a legume cover crop, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids are a top choice for renovating over farmed or compacted fields. Mow or graze at 3 to 4 feet tall— encourages tillering and deeper root growth. Leave at least 6 inches of stubble to ensure good regrowth and weed suppression. In fact, this cover crop should be mowed several times in the season to prevent it from setting seed.

**Contact Barbara Barten at Gutwein Seed Services for a Quote: 219-866-0555 or [barb@gss4ag.com](mailto:barb@gss4ag.com)**