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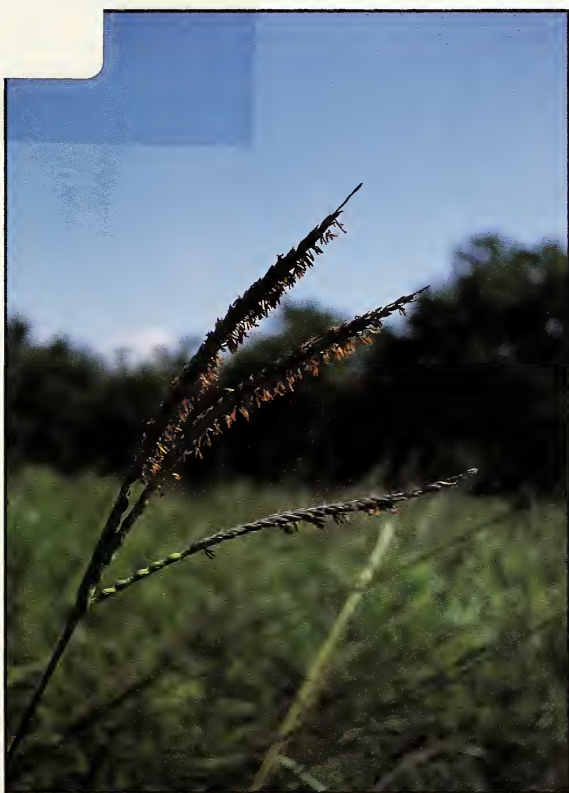
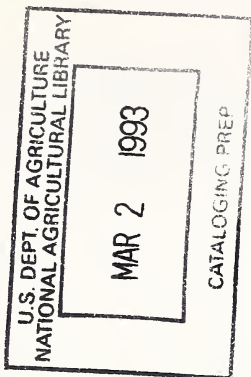
United States Department of Agriculture



Soil Conservation Service
Salina, Kansas

'Pete' eastern gamagrass

aQK495
.G74P47
1992



'Pete' eastern gamagrass

'Pete' eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides* (L.)L.) was cooperatively released to commercial seed producers in 1988 by the Soil Conservation Service and the Kansas State University and Oklahoma State University Agricultural Experiment Stations. The development of the variety 'Pete' was accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the Kansas State University Agronomy Department and the Manhattan Plant Materials Center. Farmers, ranchers, and range specialists have long recognized eastern gamagrass as a palatable, nutritious, and productive range grass. Because of its erect growth habit and palatability, eastern gamagrass has almost been eliminated from sites where it once flourished. Due to a growing awareness of the attributes of eastern gamagrass, Pete was released to provide a commercially available seed source of known origin and performance.



Description

Pete is a robust, perennial warm-season bunchgrass. It is a large, upright, leafy grass that spreads vigorously from the crown and may reach heights of six to twelve feet. Pete matures earlier than most other native warm-season grasses and remains green until frost. Eastern gamagrass has a large seed with approximately 7500 seeds per pound. Pete was developed from a composite of seventy seed collections originating from native populations in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Suitability

Pete is recommended for warm-season pasture planting, wildlife habitat, and re-establishing native prairie on sites where eastern gamagrass occurred naturally. This grass grows in pure stands in lowlands, and it



can be found in swales, streambanks, and moist places. High potential forage yields and palatability combine to make it an excellent component of forage and beef production systems. Due to the palatability of Pete, it should be established in single species pastures when grazed by livestock. Pete can potentially improve productivity with less input and reduce soil erosion by providing an alternative crop where annual forage crops are typically produced.

Adaptation

Pete eastern gamagrass is best suited to moist, well-drained soils but will adapt well to a variety of soils providing there is adequate available moisture. The primary area of adaptation of Pete includes the eastern one-third of Nebraska, the eastern one-half of Kansas and Oklahoma, and adjacent areas of Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas. Pete can be grown farther west on irrigated or subirrigated sites. Successful stands of Pete have been established as far east as New York and Florida.

Establishment

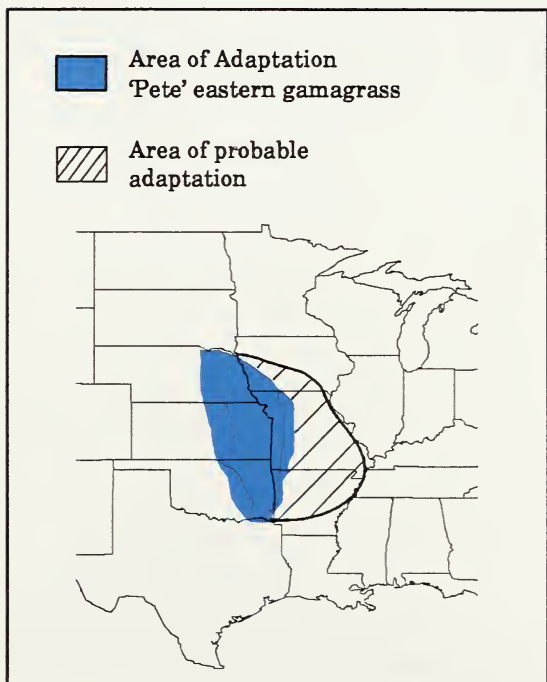
Seed dormancy can present a problem to successfully establishing a stand of eastern gamagrass the first year after seeding. It is a recommended practice, in the area of primary adaptation, to plant moist, prechilled seed in April or May. Dormant plantings have been less successful, often with erratic results.

Seed should be planted one-inch deep in

rows on a well-prepared, firm, weed-free seedbed. Under good growing conditions and proper management, Pete can be maintained in a productive stand for many years.

Availability

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) maintains a foundation-seed production field at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center near Manhattan, Kansas. Information on producing registered or certified seed is available from your State Crop Improvement Association.





For more information on where to buy Pete eastern gamagrass and how to use and plant it, contact your local SCS office. It is listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

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