**PLAINS LOVEGRASS**  
_Eragrostis intermedia_  
A.S. Hitchc.

**Plant Symbol** = ERIN

**Contributed By:** USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center

**Alternate Name**  
plains love grass

**Uses**  
Plains lovegrass provides good forage for livestock. Its seeds are eaten by upland game birds. Because it usually makes up a small percentage of the forage production on any site, it is seldom a key management species.

**Status**  
Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant’s current status, such as, state noxious status and wetland indicator values.

**Description**  
Plains lovegrass is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height is between 2 and 3-1/2 feet. The leaf blade is flat and rolls inward under dry conditions giving a threadlike appearance. The leaf sheath is mostly basal, smooth, as long as internodes, and has a conspicuous line of hairs at the collar. The seedhead is a large and showy open panicle that is brownish green in color before seed ripens. The spikelets are 3- to 8-flowered and extend horizontally from main stem. Silver hairs are found around the stem at the panicle base.

**Distribution:** For current distribution, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

**Management**  
Proper management of other associated grasses keeps lovegrass vigorous.

**Establishment**  
Growth starts in the early spring. Because this grass has a high seed stalk to leaf ratio, it is a low forage producer. It is seldom found in pure stands, but is generally scattered throughout the plant community. It grows on dry upland soils ranging from clay to sand.

**Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)**  
Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

**Reference**  

**Prepared By & Species Coordinator:**  
Percy Magee, USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Edited: 13may02 ahv; jul03 ahv; 20sep05 jsp; 070116 jsp

For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site [http://plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov) or the Plant Materials Program Web site [http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov).

---

Plants lovegrass. From Hitchcock (1950)  
@ plants.usda.gov

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Read about Civil Rights at the Natural Resources Conservation Service.