BIG CORDGRASS
*Spartina cynosuroides* (L.) Roth

Plant symbol = SPCY

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center

The ligule has short membrane and densely hairy. The stem is thick, round and often 3/4 inch in diameter at base. The seedhead has 20 to 40 spikes, each about 3 inches long, and spikelets about 1/2 inch long growing on one side of rachis with the seedhead growing 12 to 18 inches long.

**Management**
For best production and plant vigor, graze big cordgrass during fall and winter and defer grazing during summer.

**Establishment**
Major growth is from late March through September or October. Seedheads form during fall. The base of the plant remains green through the winter. It reproduces from robust rhizomes, which form dense colonies. This plant is primarily adapted to mineral soils in salt marshes. It tolerates moderate salinity and water levels that fluctuate from 4 inches below soil surface to 2 inches above. It is closely associated with marsh-hay cordgrass (*Spartina patens*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

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

**Reference**

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

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