SLIM TRIDENS  
_Tridens muticus_ (Torr.) Nash 

Plant Symbol = TRMU

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center

**Uses**

Cattle and horses graze slim tridens. Rodents and birds eat the seeds.

**Description**

Grass Family (Poaceae). Slim tridens is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 8 to 12 inches. The leaf blade is narrow, and rolled giving a needlelike appearance and sometimes sparsely covered with fine hairs. The leaf sheath is shorter than the internodes and usually covered with short hairs. The ligule is a ring of hairs. The stems are erect, slender, and somewhat swollen at the base. The seedheads are dense panicles, spikelets with 6- to 8-flowered, and pale purplish. The back of the palea is densely covered with hair.

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

**Management**

Although this grass makes up 10 to 15 percent of the total production on some sites, it is seldom considered a key management species because associated grasses are more palatable. It is an increaser on cattle ranges. Its abundance indicates fair to poor range condition.

**Establishment**

It makes most of its growth in the late spring and the seedheads generally appear 4 to 5 weeks later. The bunches are seldom more than 3 to 4 inches in diameter. It is adapted to well-drained, rocky calcareous soils.

**Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)**

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

**Reference**


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).

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.