ELLIOIT'S BLUESTEM

*Andropogon gyrans* Ashe var. *gyrans*

Plant Symbol = ANGYG

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center

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**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**

Elliott’s bluestem is a warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height is usually 2-1/2 to 3 feet. The leaf blade is 6 to 15 inches long, smooth except for cluster of hair just above ligule. The leaf sheath is a basal sheath that is keeled, overlapping, relatively narrow; and has rounded upper sheaths. The stem is erect; 1 to 6 per plant, branching near top. The seedhead is a raceme, partially enclosed in conspicuous enlarged spathe, which turns a rusty color when plant matures.

**Management**

Although of fair grazing value, this grass is seldom, if ever, abundant enough to be a key management species. It usually makes up no more than 3 to 5 percent of the plant composition. Proper grazing of more plentiful associated grasses maintains proper percentage of this grass in the plant community.

**Establishment**

New growth starts in early spring but most of growth is made during spring and summer. Seedheads develop during fall, and seedstalks remain for several months. Distinctive seedhead clusters make plants conspicuous after maturity. Grows best in open areas but tolerates some shade. Adapts primarily to well-drained soils on uplands and does not tolerate wet sites.

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

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

**References**


**Prepared By & Species Coordinator:**

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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 Web site <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

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