

Lehmann Lovegrass

Eragrostis lehmanniana



Lehmann Lovegrass is a perennial Lovegrass first introduced from South Africa in the 1920's and 1930's. The stems are commonly prostrate and take root and produce new plants at the nodes. The stems are slender, smooth, and flexible and vary from 46 to 92 cm (18 to 36 in.) long. The leaves are short, 8 to 15 cm (3 to 6 in.) long, and open. The seed is similar in shape and color to those of Weeping Lovegrass, but it is only about one-fourth the size. The palatability of Lehmann lovegrass for cattle is low during the summer and it is generally lightly grazed at that time. Cattle make greater use of this grass during fall, winter, and spring because the foliage remains green longer than most native grasses. Lehmann lovegrass's nutritional importance to livestock is greatest in the winter when its crude protein content is higher than that of many native warm-season grasses.

Lehmann Lovegrass may be grown with as little as 25 to 30.5 cm (10 to 12 in.) annual rainfall, with 10 cm (4 in.) accumulating as summer rains. However, along highway right-of-ways or under the situations where extra runoff may occur, it may do well with less rainfall. Lehmann has been known to die during years of drought in the Southwest. However, with the resumption of average or better rainfall in succeeding summers, stands were restored by self-seeding. Soil temperatures are not too restrictive, but it generally prefers soils of lighter texture and does best on relatively fertile sandy to silt-loam soils.

Along highways in southern Arizona and New Mexico, Lehmann Lovegrass has been seeded in mixes with other grasses with a great deal of success. The advantage of extra runoff from the pavement has certainly enhanced its establishment and survival, especially on sites where annual precipitation is less than 25 cm (10 in.).

Seeding Rate: 1.5 lbs. PLS/acre

Height Range (inches): 18 to 36

Seeds Per Pound: 6,537,000

Taxonomy

Species: Eragrostis lehmanniana Nees

Genus: Eragrostis von Wolf

Family: Poaceae

Order: Cyperales

Subclass: Commelinidae

Class: Magnoliopsida

Division: Magnoliophyta

Subkingdom: Tracheobionta

Kingdom: Plantae



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