

# Sand Dropseed

*Sporobolus Dryptandrus*



Sand Dropseed is a native, very drought tolerant, warm season, perennial bunchgrass that does not produce rhizomes. It reproduces from seed and the old bunches increase in size by tillering. Growth begins in early spring and seed heads appear about September. It can be identified by a ring of short stiff hair at the leaf collar and by the typical enclosed or covered seed head. Sand dropseed, like other species of the genus, has hard seed, which ordinarily do not germinate unless scarified or treated with acid to make the seed coat permeable or held in dry storage for at least a year.

Sand dropseed is native to many of the low elevation and low rainfall rangelands of Utah. It occurs on several upland and semi-desert sites, with precipitation between 5 to 15 inches annually. It commonly grows on sandy soils but is adapted to medium textured soils also. Sand dropseed is not tolerant of wet soils

This grass is readily eaten by all classes of livestock during the early growth stage but is unpalatable and poor forage when mature. It produces less forage than other mid-grasses and is an invader in the true prairie bluestem belt. Farther west it is considered an increaser and usually thickens its stand, even on heavier soils, as the better grasses are weakened by over-use. Sand dropseed moves in quickly on disturbed areas and has been successfully established by seeding on sandy soil. Sand dropseed will increase with excessive grazing or after drought, but is susceptible to severe drought. New seedlings of sand dropseed should not be grazed for 2 or 3 growing seasons depending on climatic conditions, especially the amount of moisture. After plant establishment, it will tolerate harvest of about 50 percent of the annual growth.

**Seeding Rate:** Broadcast: 1 PLS Lb. / Ac | Drilled: .5 PLS Lbs. / Ac

**Height Range (inches):** 12 - 36

**Seeds Per Pound:** 5,000,000

## *Taxonomy*

*Species: Dryptandrus*

*Genus: Sporobolus*

*Family: Poaceae*

*Order: Cyperales*

*Subclass: Commelinidae*

*Class: Liliopsida*

*Division: Magnoliophyta*

*Subkingdom: Tracheobionta*

*Kingdom: Plantae*



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