

WHITE TRIDENS

Tridens albescens (Vasey)
Woot. & Standl.
Plant Symbol = TRAL2

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



From Hitchcock (1950)
@ plants.usda.gov

Uses

Cattle and horses graze white tridens. Birds eat the large seed.

Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). White tridens is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 1 to 3 feet. The leaf blade is long, narrow, and rolls inward when drying. The leaf sheath is a rounded, open, and basal sheath shorter than the internodes. The ligule is a row of hairs. The stem is swollen at the base and white to purple. The

seedhead is a dense panicle that is distinctly green to purple before maturity.

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

Management

Because this grass never makes up a large percentage of the plant composition, it is seldom a key management species. It is generally less palatable than associated grasses; therefore, requires no special management. White tridens increases on most sites. Its abundance indicates fair range condition.

Establishment

Growth starts in late spring and the seedheads start to form about 5 to 6 weeks later. The seeds are fairly large and the plants often have a sour odor. It grows best along drainageways and sites that overflow occasionally. It is best adapted to sandy to sandy loam soils, but grows on clay soils if moisture is adequate.

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

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS *Agriculture Handbook No. 389*, Washington, DC.

Prepared By & Species Coordinator:

Percy Magee, USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.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](#).