

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE  
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## IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING SUDAN GRASS

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1. Terrace the land if it is subject to washing, or in West Texas if there is any water run-off.

2. Prepare the land similar to that of corn, grain sorghum, or cotton, if the grass is to be planted in rows, and similar to small grains, if the grass is to be planted broadcast. The seed bed should be loose and free from clods.

3. Plant good seed, free from Johnson grass. For hay, in rows, plant from 5 to 10 pounds of seed per acre. For grazing purposes, it is better to use from 10 to 15 pounds per acre, in order to get a stand more quickly. If broadcast for hay, from 15 to 20 pounds of seed should be used per acre. Planting in 2 to 3 foot rows has given better results for hay and grazing than by sowing broadcast. Planting in rows may be done with an ordinary planter and a sorghum plate.

4. Sudan grass is a warm weather plant and should not be planted until the ground has warmed up. The best planting dates range from March 1st, in South Texas, to May 1st for North, and Northwest Texas. However, it will often furnish good grazing when sown as late as July.

5. On the sandy soil of East Texas, an application of 100 lbs. of superphosphate per acre before planting, or at the time of planting, and two side dressings of 50 pounds of a good nitrogen fertilizer during the summer, is suggested.

6. Keep the Sudan grass clean of weeds by means of shallow cultivation.

7. Do not start grazing Sudan grass until the plants are from 15 to 18 inches high. Mow the grass if it gets coarse and stemmy, and then keep the stock off for a few days, so that new and succulent shoots may form. For grazing purposes, it is also best to cross-fence the pasture to allow alternate grazing.

8. Sudan grass should be harvested for hay, when the first heads appear, thereby obtaining a maximum yield of good quality hay. The seed should never be allowed to mature before cutting the grass for hay, as this will reduce its feeding value.

9. The best method of harvesting Sudan grass for hay, is by cutting it with a mower, although a row-binder may also be used in the western part of the state.

10. If cut with a mower, allow the hay to cure a day or two in the swath, then rake into wind-rows, and allow it to cure sufficiently dry for baling or to put into the stack, or barn.

11. For harvesting the seed, a row-binder is the most satisfactory although the grain binder may also be used.

12. Ordinary threshers handle whole bundles of the seed crop readily, but if the thresher is small, it is better to feed the upper half of the bundles into the machine until the seed have been threshed off.