Forage Crops Research
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Forage Crops Research

- Twelve species of forage crops are compared
- Seedling and stand development
- Five sites in NE Arizona
- Crops can provide hay, grazing, seeds
Forage Species - Alfalfa

- Scientific name is *Medicago sativa* and is in the legume family.
- Alfalfa was introduced from the middle east (Iran, Iraq).
- Commonly called the generic term “hay”.
- Blooms in Spring.
- Growth period is Spring, Summer, and Fall.
Forage Species - Barley

- Scientific name is *Hordeum vulgare*, valued as a grain crop, in early head stage can be cut for hay.
- Is one of the earliest cultivated crops.
- Barley is a common grain for brewing beer.
- Grown for many purposes but mostly animal feed.
Forage Species – Breadless Wheat

• Scientific name is *Triticum aestivum*.
• The grain of wheat is the most common bread flour.
• In the early head stage it makes good hay and can be grazed in the immature stage.
• Is mixed with other native prairie species for restoration and highway vegetation.
• Helps to stabilize soil.
Forage Species – Big Bluestem

- A native perennial grass of the Great Plains. It is a weak sod former.
- It produces high quality forage at about 6,000 lbs./ac in a pure stand.
- The plant can be cut for hay about the time of seed head formation.
Forage Species – Four Wing Saltbush

*Atriplex canescens*

- A shrub native to North America. It prefers slightly saline soil.
- It produces good browse and it is often planted in land reclamation projects.
- Get it’s common name from the seed.
- Grows from California, northwest to Washington state, east to north Dakota and Kansas and south to Mexico.
Forage Species - Millet

- Millet is a grass originally from Africa.
- It provides grain for human food, and wildlife (birdseed).
- Its scientific name is *Panicum miliaceum*.
- It can be cut for hay and is a good forage, especially for horses.
- Grows well on well-drained loamy soils.
Forage Species - Oats

- The scientific name of oats is *Avena sativa*.
- When young it can be grazed, and when older cut for hay.
- Seeds of oats are widely used for horse feed, and is a grain widely used as a human health food.
Forage Species – Orchard Grass

- Orchard grass, *Dactylis glomerata*, is an introduced pasture/forage grass from Europe.
- It has been widely planted in the USA and in the forests of the Southwest after timber harvest or fires.
Forage Species - Switchgrass

- Switchgrass - *(Panicum virgatum)* is a native plant of the Great Plains.
- It produces good forage and is being widely studied as a bio-fuel crop for the production of ethanol.
- It is commonly planted for land reclamation.
Forage Species – Smooth Bromegrass

- *Bromus inermis*, smooth bromegrass, is introduced from Europe as a forage grass.
- It has value for grazing and as hay.
Forage Species – Teff Grass

- Introduced from Ethiopia.
- This warm season annual grass is used as forage and a food grain in its country of origin.
- It has very small seeds.
- The scientific name is *Eragrostis tef*.
Forage Species - Triticale

- Triticale is a cool season annual grain grass.
- Primarily used for hay and grazing.
- It is a cross of wheat and rye (*Triticum X Secale*)