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## SIDEOATS GRAMA

*Bouteloua curtipendula* (Michx.) Torr. var.  
*curtipendula*

GRASS FAMILY (POACEAE)

**Plants:** Rhizomatous perennial grass. Plants with long, scaly rhizomes; leaves mostly basal; flowering stems solitary or in small clusters; stems smooth, 0.2 – 1.0m tall, purplish at the nodes.

**Leaves:** Leaf blades flat or folded when dry; 3-7 mm wide, 2-30 cm long; ligules membranous, ciliate, 0.3-0.5mm;

**Flowers:** Flowering panicles 10 – 30 cm long with 40 – 70 short drooping one-sided branches; with 3-7 crowded spikelets per branch. Glumes unequal, first small and narrow (2.5 - 6 mm); second 4 - 8mm long, thick and purplish; Spikelets 1 perfect floret with and imperfect floret above; fertile lemmas 3-6mm long; anthers red or red-orange (occasionally yellow, orange, purple).

**Habitat:** Rich, loamy, well-drained prairie soils; prefers fine-textured, calcareous and moderately alkaline soils; 100m – 2500m elevation range; the Alberta occurrence is along a glacial meltwater channel, possibly introduced from a seed mix; associated with *Stipa comata* – *Koeleria micrantha* – *Calamovilfa longifolia* – *Schizachyrium scoparium* – *Bouteloua gracilis* – *Muhlenbergia richardsonii* – *Juniperus horizontalis* – *Artemisia frigida*.

**Status:** S1 G5

**Notes:** Major components of short grass prairie in the Great Plains. Much of its range is now cultivated. Good forage value for grazers, staying moderately palatable into the winter; often used in reclamation seed mixes.

## References:

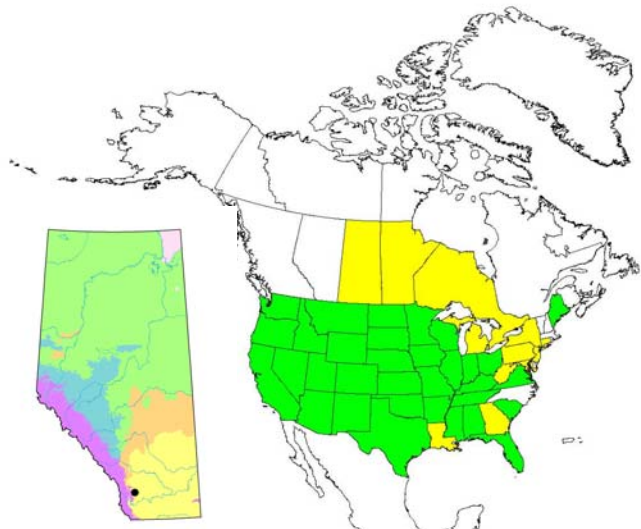
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Photo by Marilena Kowalchuk



ANHIC 2010

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