

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP

Droughty Loam

FSG No.: G102BY120SD

Major Land Resource Area: 102B - Till Plains

Physiographic Features

The soils in this group are mostly located on glacial outwash plains, alluvial fan remnants, terraces, and on flood plains.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	980	1640
Slope (percent):	0	9
Flooding:		
Frequency:	None	Frequent
Duration:	None	Very Brief
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Runoff Class:	Negligible	High

Climatic Features

Annual precipitation varies widely from year to year in MLRA 102B. Average annual precipitation for all climate stations listed below is about 24 inches. Over 75 percent of that occurs during the months of April through September. On average there are about 30 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during the same timeframe. Precipitation is less than needed for optimum forage production and is the single largest factor limiting production from this group on non-irrigated lands.

Average annual snowfall ranges from 25 to 39 inches across the MLRA. Snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 15 days at Bridgewater to 79 days at Madison.

Average July temperatures are about 75⁰F and average January temperatures are about 15⁰F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA are a low of -36 degrees and a high of 110 degrees both recorded at Sioux Falls.

Average annual wind speeds at Sioux Falls are 11 mph with the highest wind speeds occurring during March and April. It is cloudy an average of 157 days a year at Sioux Falls, with the greatest incidence of cloudy weather occurring in November and December. Average morning relative humidity in June is 82 percent and average afternoon humidity is 59 percent.

The climate data listed in the tables below represent high and low ranges and averages for the climate stations and dates listed. For additional climate data, access the National Water and Climate Center at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>.

	From	To
Freeze-free period (28 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	139	154
Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	May 13	May 03
Last Frost in Spring (32 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	May 24	May 17
First Frost in Fall (32 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 10	Sep 19

	From	To
First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 19	Sep 30
Length of Growing Season (32 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	117	133
Growing Degree Days (40 deg):	4565	5314
Growing Degree Days (50 deg):	2600	3179
Annual Minimum Temperature:	-25	-20
Mean annual precipitation (inches):	23	25

Monthly precipitation (inches) and temperature (F):

2 years in 10:	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Precip. Less Than	0.13	0.19	0.63	1.12	1.56	1.86	1.71	1.47	1.33	0.71	0.20	0.26
Precip. More Than	0.73	1.35	2.33	3.33	4.79	5.83	4.96	4.17	3.71	2.66	1.63	1.04
Monthly Average:	0.47	0.62	1.64	2.36	3.26	3.70	3.17	2.80	2.62	1.66	1.04	0.67
Temp. Min.	2.1	8.2	20.8	34.5	45.9	55.5	60.8	57.9	48.3	36.5	22.5	8.0
Temp. Max.	29.9	35.8	48.2	64.6	75.4	84.7	89.3	86.3	78.1	66.3	48.0	32.9
Temp. Avg.	15.1	21.3	33.5	48.1	59.9	69.4	74.7	71.9	62.2	50.2	34.2	19.7

<u>Climate Station</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
SD1032	Bridgewater, SD	1961	1990
SD1392	Canton, SD	1961	1990
SD1579	Centerville, SD	1961	1990
SD5090	Madison Research Farm, SD	1962	1990
SD5228	Marion, SD	1961	1990
SD5481	Menno, SD	1961	1990
SD7667	Sioux Falls, SD	1961	1990
SD8472	Tyndall, SD	1961	1990
SD8622	Vermillion, SD	1961	1990
SD9502	Yankton, SD	1961	1990

Soil Interpretations

This group consists of well drained, medium to moderately coarse textured soils formed predominately from materials deposited by glacial meltwaters. They are very deep soils with moderate available water capacity and moderate to moderately rapid permeability. Many of these soils have underlying sand or gravel at moderate depths.

Drainage Class:	Well drained	To	Well drained
Permeability Class: (0 - 40 inches)	Moderate	To	Moderately rapid
Frost Action Class:	Low	To	High

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Depth:	72	
Surface Fragments >3" (% Cover):	0	3
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	1.0	6.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	0	2
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	0	0
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	5.6	8.4
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	6	9
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	0	15

Adapted Species List

The following forage species are considered adapted to grow on the soils in this group. Additional information concerning plant characteristics of a number of the listed species as well as individual cultivars of many of those species can be accessed at <http://plants.usda.gov/>.

<u>Cool Season Grasses</u>	<u>Dryland</u>	<u>Irrigated</u>
Green needlegrass	G	NS
Intermediate wheatgrass	G	G
Meadow brome	G	G
Orchardgrass	G	G
Pubescent wheatgrass	G	G
Smooth brome	G	G
Tall fescue	F	F
Tall wheatgrass	F	NS
Timothy	NS	F
Western wheatgrass	G	NS

<u>Warm Season Grasses</u>	<u>Dryland</u>	<u>Irrigated</u>
Big bluestem	G	G
Indiangrass	F	G
Little bluestem	G	NS
Prairie sandreed	F	NS
Sand bluestem	F	NS
Sideoats grama	G	NS
Switchgrass	F	G

<u>Legumes</u>	<u>Dryland</u>	<u>Irrigated</u>
Alfalfa	G	G
Birdsfoot trefoil	F	G
Cicer milkvetch	G	F
Purple prairieclover	G	NS
Red clover	F	G
White prairieclover	F	NS

G - Good adaptation for forage production on this group of soils in this MLRA

F - Fair adaptation but will not produce at its highest potential

NS - Not suited

Production Estimates

Production estimates listed here should only be used for making general management recommendations. Onsite production information should always be used for making detailed planning and management recommendations.

The high forage production estimates listed below are based on dense, vigorous stands of climatically adapted, superior performing cultivars. They are properly fertilized for high yields, and pest infestations are kept below economic thresholds. Mechanical harvests are managed to maintain stand life by cutting at appropriate stages of maturity and harvest intervals. If grazed, optimum beginning and ending grazing heights are adhered to. Adequate time is allowed for plant recovery before entering winter dormancy under both uses.

The production estimates listed below represent total annual above ground plant production on an air-dry-matter basis. Estimates of hay and grazing yields can be calculated from these numbers by multiplying them by a harvest efficiency. A 70 percent harvest efficiency is commonly used when converting to hay yields. Pasture harvest efficiency is highly dependent on the grazing management system applied, ranging from 25 to 50 percent.

Forage Crop	Management Intensity		Management Intensity	
	<u>High</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>Low</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>High</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>Low</u> (lbs/ac)
Alfalfa	8300	3700		
Alfalfa/Intermediate wheatgrass	7700	3400	14300	8600
Alfalfa/Smooth brome grass	7700	3400	14300	8600
Big bluestem	7700	3400	0	0
Intermediate wheatgrass	5400	2900	11400	6900
Smooth brome grass	5400	2900	11400	6900

Forage Growth Curves

Growth curves estimate the seasonal distribution of growth of the various forage crops. They indicate when the forages may be available for grazing or mechanical harvest.

Growth Curve Number: SD0001
Growth Curve Name: Alfalfa
Growth Curve Description: Alfalfa, MLRAs 107, 102B, 63B, 66, 65

Percent Production by Month											
<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	5	30	25	20	15	5	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: SD0004
Growth Curve Name: Cool season grass
Growth Curve Description: Cool season grass, statewide

Percent Production by Month											
<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	10	40	30	10	5	5	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: SD0005
Growth Curve Name: Warm season grass
Growth Curve Description: Warm season grass, statewide

Percent Production by Month											
<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	0	10	40	35	15	0	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: SD0003
Growth Curve Name: Irrigated Alfalfa
Growth Curve Description: Irrigated Alfalfa, statewide

Percent Production by Month											
<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	5	25	25	20	15	10	0	0	0

Soil Limitations

The primary limitation for these soils is their moderate available water capacity which limits plant growth during periods of moisture deficit. On steeper slopes, water erosion is a potential problem during stand establishment, and livestock trail erosion is a potential problem on established stands. Also, wind erosion is a potential problem during stand establishment on moderately coarse textured soils.

Management Interpretations

The impact on yields of the moderate available water capacity of these soils can be reduced by selecting forage species that are tolerant to periods of drought and inadequate soil moisture. Including sod forming grass species in stands, especially on steeper slopes, will reduce the potential for sheet and rill erosion. Incorporate both wind and water erosion control practices during the establishment period. Properly locating facilitating practices such as fences, lanes, and water developments can help control livestock movement, reduce trailing perpendicular to steeper slopes, and evenly distribute grazing pressure.

FSG Documentation

Similar FSGs:

<u>FSG ID</u>	<u>FSG Narrative</u>
G102BY100S	Loamy soils have greater available water capacity and greater production potential.
G102BY130S	Very Droughty Loams have lower available water capacity and lower production potential.

Inventory Data References

Agriculture Handbook 296-Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Water and Climate Center data
USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Maps
National Soil Survey Information System (NASIS) for soil surveys in South Dakota counties in MLRA 102B
South Dakota NRCS South Dakota Technical Guide
NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook
Various Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and NRCS research trials for plant adaptation and production.

State Correlation

This site has been correlated with the following states: South Dakota

Forage Suitability Group Approval

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Original Date:

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