

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP

Loamy and Clayey Soils on Stream Terraces and Flood Plains

FSG No.: G152AA334FL

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA 152A):

Eastern Gulf Coast Flatwoods

Map Unit List

Wahee and Ochlockonee soils, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded

Adapted Species List

The native forage species listed are considered adapted to grow on the soils in this group at their natural pH levels. All introduced grass and legume species will need the pH level raised to min. 5.5 (unless noted) for best production. All forages listed are adapted to dryland conditions. Consult with state extension service for current cultivar or germplasm recommendations (<http://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/foragesofflorida/>).

Perennial Species:

Grasses

Warm season (Introduced)

- Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*, pH 5.0 – 6.5)
- Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

Warm season (Native)

- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- Yellow Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- Lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*)
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Legumes

Warm season

- Rhizoma Perennial Peanut (*Arachis glabrata*, pH 5.8-7.0)

Annual Species:

Grasses

Warm season

- Browntop Millet (*Urochloa ramosa*; =*Panicum ramosum*)
- Pearl Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*)
- Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*; includes forage sorghums, sudangrass, and their hybrids)

Cool season

- Ryegrass, annual (*Lolium perenne* ssp. *multiflorum*; =*L. multiflorum*)
- Oat (*Avena sativa*)

- Rye (*Secale cereale*)
- Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)
- Triticale (x *Triticosecale*)

Legumes

Warm season

- Hairy Indigo (*Indigofera hirsuta*)
- Alyceclover (*Alysicarpus vaginalis*)
- Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*)

Cool season

- White Clover (*Trifolium repens*, pH 6.0-7.5)
- Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*, pH 6.0 – 8.0)
- Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*)
- Arrowleaf Clover (*Trifolium vesiculosum*)
- Austrian Winter Pea (*Pisum sativum*, pH 6.0-7.5)
- Hairy Vetch (*Vicia villosa*)
- Medics (*Medicago* spp., pH 5.5-8.0)

Seasonal and Total Production Estimates

Soils in this group are similar to those in FSG G152AA331FL with the exception that they are subject to flooding. In most cases, the flooding duration would not be expected to kill adapted perennial species, but may result in stand loss for annual forage species. Additionally, scouring effects can be expected to be more detrimental to annual than perennial species. Planners should consider individual site characteristics when making planting recommendations.

Production of cool season forages such as annual ryegrass, oats, and wheat planted in a prepared seedbed should be practical most years for all classes of livestock throughout the MLRA. Additionally, overseeding annual ryegrass on bahiagrass pasture is recommended forage suitability group. If irrigation is available, forage production should be consistently at the upper end listed.

For similar reasons, cool season clovers and other cool season legumes planted in a prepared seedbed, should be considered on this FSG. Grazing management and fertilization need to favor the legume component for persistence, productivity, and seed production when natural reseeding of annual species is desired. Grazing management for seed production also is important for several clover species. White and red clovers are short-term perennials in Florida, but function more like annuals. Other species, like crimson clover, reseed well if they

are managed properly. Due to bloat issue, clovers should be used only in mixtures with cool season grasses, overseeded on bahiagrass pastures, or when a bloat preventative supplement is fed.

Initial growth of perennial warm season grasses and legumes or establishment of warm season annual grasses may be delayed in the spring due to low rainfall. Once normal summer rainfall begins, plant production should

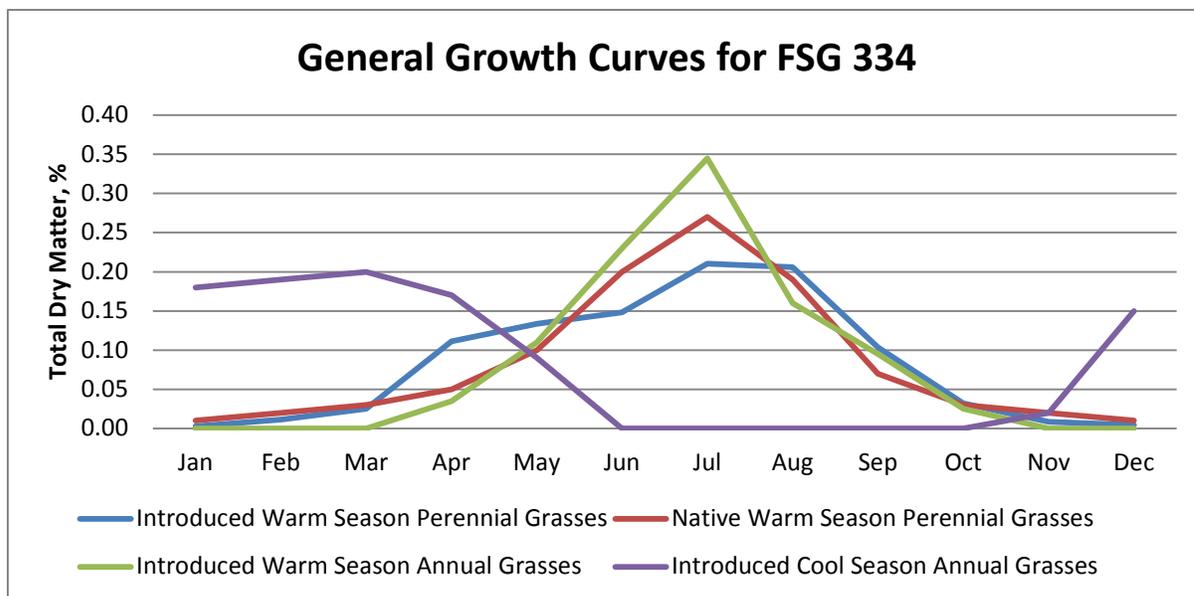
resume. Warm season legumes such as hairy indigo or alyceclover can be planted in a prepared seedbed. They also can be oversown onto warm season grasses in this forage suitability group, although fertilization (no N fertilizer) and grazing management needs to favor legume establishment and persistence. Additional lime may be needed to maintain a pH of 5.5 to 6.0

Expected Range in Dry Matter Production and Animal Unit Months (AUM) for Different Forages†				
Forage	Range in Dry matter, lbs/acre		Range in AUM/acre‡	
Bahiagrass, Argentine (100-200 lb N/A) ^{5,6,7,#}	5,500	12,130	3.5	7.8
Bahiagrass, Pensacola (100-200 lb /A) ^{5,6,7}	5,100	11,280	3.3	7.2
Bahiagrass, Tifton 9 (100-200 lb N/A) ^{5,6,7}	8,500	12,760	5.4	8.2
Bermudagrass, Tifton 85 (100-200 lb N/A) ^{5,6,7}	7,800	13,040	5.0	8.4
Bermudagrass, Florakirk (100-200 lb N) ^{2,5,6,7}	8,200	12,530	5.3	8.0
Bermudagrass, Coastal (100-200 lb N/A) ^{5,6,7,8}	4,500	12,000	2.9	7.7
Eastern Gamagrass, Pete (100-300 lb N/A) ^{5,6,7}	5,000	7,500	3.2	4.8
Big Bluestem (100-300 lb N/acre) ^{5,6,7}	1,000	2,000	0.6	1.3
Ryegrass (120 lb N/A) ^{3,4}	4,400	8,000	2.8	5.1
Small Grain Forage (oat, wheat, etc.; 120 lb N/acre) ¹	7,500	8,000	4.8	5.1
Pearl Millet (200 lb N/acre) ^{5,6,7}	10,000	11,130	6.4	7.1
Sorghum - Sudangrass (200 lb N/acre) ^{5,6,7}	12,500	13,000	8.0	8.3
Rhizoma Perennial Peanut ²	4,400	6,300	2.8	4.0
Cool-Season Clovers, overseeded on bahiagrass ^{4,6,7}	375	1,200	0.2	0.8
Cool-Season Clovers, prepared seedbed ^{4,6}	1,650	4,000	1.1	2.6
Alyceclover ⁴	1,875	3,500	1.2	2.2
Hairy Indigo ⁴	2,500	6,000	1.6	3.8

†Production data based on 25% increase in lower range values for FSG G152AA321FL.

‡Animal Unit Month based on 50% grazing efficiency and 2.6% intake per day.

#Superscript numbers refer to references.



Dry Matter Production Distribution by Month												
Forage	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Introduced Warm Season Perennial Grasses												
Bahiagrass (Pensacola)		0.01	0.03	0.14	0.14	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.14	0.03		
Bahiagrass (Argentine)		0.01	0.04	0.08	0.09	0.18	0.25	0.22	0.11	0.02		
Bermudagrass (Tifton 85)		0.02	0.02	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.21	0.22	0.08	0.03	0.01	0.00
Bermudagrass (Coastal)	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.21	0.22	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.01
Native Warm Season Perennial Grasses												
Native Warm Season Grasses (Generic)	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.1	0.2	0.27	0.19	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.01
Eastern Gamagrass	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.16	0.18	0.2	0.16	0.13	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.01
Switchgrass	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.07	0.15	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.09	0.03	0.01	0.01
Legumes or Legume/Grass Combinations												
Rhizoma Perennial Peanut			0.05	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.20	0.18	0.14			
White Clover/Argentine Bahiagrass	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.14	0.17	0.21	0.18	0.12	0.09	0.02		
Cool Season Annual Grasses												
Annual Ryegrass	0.18	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.1						0.02	0.14
Small Grains (Wheat, Rye, etc.)	0.18	0.2	0.2	0.16	0.08						0.02	0.16
Warm Season Annual Grasses												
Sorghum-Sudangrass					0.07	0.2	0.3	0.25	0.15	0.03		
Millet (Pearl and Browntop)				0.07	0.15	0.26	0.39	0.07	0.04	0.02		

Physiographic Features

Dominantly very deep, nearly level or gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained or moderately well drained soils formed in loamy and/or clayey marine deposits or alluvial deposits. These soils occur on flats on flood plains, or treads and risers of stream terraces. Diagnostic subsurface horizon is an argillic horizon above 20 inches or is absent. The organic matter content of the surface layer is dominantly very low to medium. Unless limed, the reaction in the surface layer ranges from extremely acid to strongly acid.

Climatic Features

Freeze-free period (>28° F 9 years in 10 at least):
 averages 268 d (range 243-295 d)

Length of growing season (>32° F 9 years in 10 at least): averages 235 d (range 206-267 d)

Annual minimum temperature (° F in month of January):
 averages 53.7 (range 49.0-64.5)

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone:
 8b (15-20° F, Tallahassee)
 9a (20-25° F, Gainesville)

Mean annual precipitation (inches):
 averages 60.77 (range 52.83-69.20)

Soil Properties

Percent Slope: 0 to 5 percent

Surface Texture: Fine sandy loam, sandy loam, loam, loamy sand, loamy fine sand. A few members are silt loam, clay loam, or fine sand.

Sand Content of Surface Layer: 27 to 95 percent

Clay Content of Surface Layer: 2 to 35 percent

Organic Matter Content of Surface Layer: 0.5 to 3.0 percent

Cation Exchange Capacity of Surface Layer (meq/100g):
 0.8 to 10.0

Effective Cation Exchange Capacity of Surface Layer (meq/100g): 1.1 to 9.7

Bulk Density of Surface Layer (g/cc): 1.3 to 1.58

Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity of Surface Layer:
 Moderate to rapid

Soil Reaction of Surface Layer: 3.5 to 5.5 (unless limed)

Available Water Capacity (0 to 30 inches): 0.7 to 2.5 inch per inch

Depth to Finer Textured Material: less than 20 inches

Depth to Bedrock: Greater than 80 inches.

Drainage Class (Agronomic): Somewhat poorly, moderately well

Depth to Seasonal High Water Table (during wet periods): 1 to 3 feet

Flooding: Occasional or frequent with brief or very long duration

Ponding: None

Monthly precipitation (inches) and temperature (F):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precip avg	5.25	4.28	5.67	3.52	3.78	6.20	7.82	7.44	5.82	3.46	3.54	3.75
Avg Min	40.5	43.0	48.9	83.7	62.0	66.9	71.6	71.4	68.1	57.1	49.0	43.2
Avg Temp	53.7	56.7	62.7	68.1	75.3	80.8	82.6	82.3	79.4	70.6	62.6	55.8
Avg Max	64.1	67.3	73.3	79.1	85.6	90.1	91.3	90.9	88.3	81.2	73.3	66.2

Climate Station Locations (averages from 1971 to 2000; see Appendix 1)

FSG Documentation

Inventory Data References:

1. Barnett, R.D., D.L. Wright, A.R. Soffes Blount, and R.L. Stanley. 1997. Small grain production recommendations for the 1997-98 growing season. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, SS-AGR-46.
2. Dunavin, L.S. 1996. Fertility trials with Florakirk bermudagrass and chicory and harvest date trial with Florigraze rhizoma peanut. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Experiment Station, West Florida Research and Education Center Research Report, WF96-4.
3. ----- . 1997. Cool-season forage trials, 1996-1997. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Experiment Station, West Florida Research and Education Center Research Report, WF97-5.
4. -----, and C.G. Chambliss. 2000. Cool-season forage variety trials, WFREC, Jay, FL 1999-2000. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Experiment Station, SS-AGR-85.
5. -----, and D.W. Gorbet. 2000. Variety and Other Trials of several forage grasses and legumes, temperate corn and grain sorghum. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Experiment Station, West Florida Research and Education Center Research Report, WF00-03.
6. ----- . 2001. Variety and other trials of several forage grasses and legumes, temperate corn and grain sorghum. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Experiment Station, West Florida Research and Education Center Research Report, WF01-03.
7. ----- . 2002. Variety and other trials of several forage grasses and legumes and grain sorghum. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Experiment Station, West Florida Research and Education Center Research Report, WF02-03.
8. Rhoads, F.M., and R.L. Stanley, Jr. 1989. Coastal bermudagrass yield, soil-pH, and ammonium sulfate-nitrate rates. Gainesville, FL, USA: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Experiment Station, North Florida Research and Education Center-Quincy Research Report 89-9

State Correlation: (NA)

Forage Suitability Group Approval:



Greg Hendricks, State Resource Conservationist



Tom Weber, State Soil Scientist

Appendix 1: Climate Station Locations		
COOP ID (FL=08)	Location	County
3230	Fountain	Bay
6842	Panama City	Bay
2008	Cross City	Dixie
3855	Pensacola Sherman NAS	Escambia
6997	Pensacola Regional Air.	Escambia
211	Apalachicola	Franklin
9566	Wewahitchka	Gulf
5539	Mayo	LaFayette
8758	Tallahassee Mun. Air.	Leon
9120	Usher Tower	Levy
5275	Madison	Madison
6240	Niceville	Okaloosa
3841	Whiting Field NAS	Santa Rosa
5099	Live Oak	Suwannee
7025	Perry	Taylor
8565	Steinhatchee	Taylor