

## FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP

### Sandy Over Loamy Soils on Rises, Knolls, and Ridges of Mesic Uplands

FSG No.: G154XB221FL

**Major Land Resource Area (MLRA 154):** South-Central Florida Ridge

#### Map Unit List

Bonneau fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes

#### 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. Irrigation is not recommended in these soils, and 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)

- Chalky Bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus* var. *glaucus*)
- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*, northern half of the MLRA)
- Splitbeard Bluestem (*Andropogon ternarius*)
- Yellow Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

##### Legumes

Warm season (Introduced)

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

#### Annual Species:

##### Grasses

Warm season (Introduced)

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

##### Legumes and Forbs

Warm season (Introduced)

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

#### Seasonal and Total Production Estimates

Seasonal and total forage production is expected to be less variable than FSG G154XB121FL because finer textures soils are closer to the surface, which will improve water holding capacity. This will decrease drought effects, but total annual production still is driven largely by rainfall. Yields can increase by > 1,000 lbs/acre in years with above average rainfall. However greatly reduced production and even stand loss associated with over grazing can occur in years with below average rainfall. Irrigation is not recommended for these soils due to poor water holding capacity. Establishment of both annual and perennial warm season forages maybe delayed due to limited rainfall in the spring and short term drought periods in the summer months. Total production of all forage species is expected to be higher than FSG G154XB111FL but less than other groups, with a general growth curve still weighted more towards the later part of the growing season.

Cool season forage production is very limited due limited water holding capacity of these soils and to decreased and sporadic rainfall during winter months (November-March). Therefore no cool season forages are recommended and no production data is given.

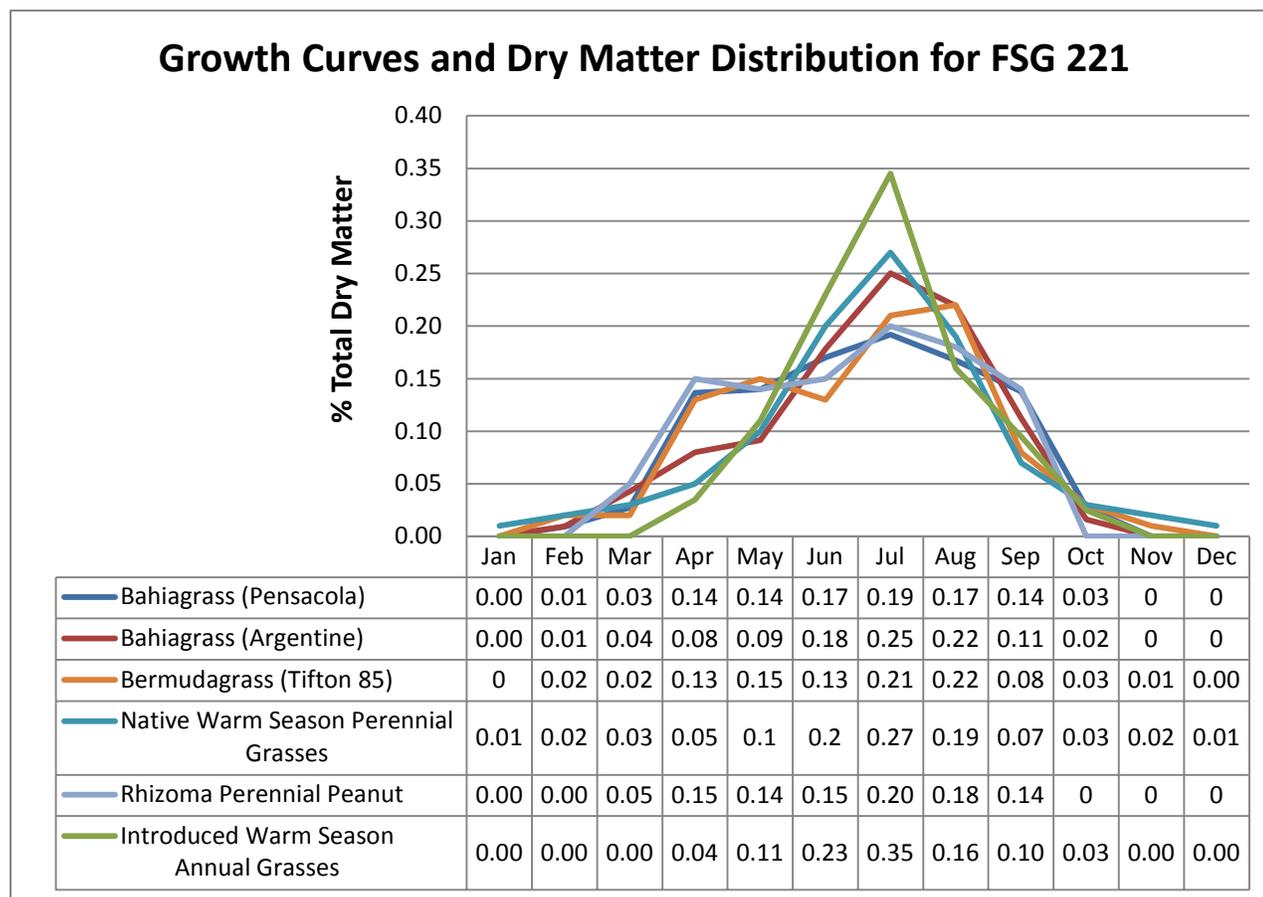
Expected Range in Dry Matter Production and Animal Unit Months (AUM) for Different Forages†				
Forage	Range in Dry Matter Yield, lb/acre		Range in AUM/acre‡	
Bahiagrass (0 lb N/acre) <sup>5</sup> #	3,900	4,400	2.5	2.8
Bahiagrass (60 lb N/acre) <sup>5,9</sup>	6,250	7,500	4.0	4.8
Bermudagrass (400 lb N/acre) <sup>4</sup>	21,900	25,000	14.0	16.0
Swithgrass, Alamo <sup>1</sup>	9,400	10,000	6.0	6.4
Rhizoma Perennial Peanut, Florigraze <sup>3,7</sup>	10,900	12,500	7.0	8.0
Pearl Millet (limited irrigation, ~400 lb N/acre) <sup>6</sup>	12,500	20,000	8.0	12.8
Alyceclover <sup>8</sup>	4,700	6,250	3.0	4.0
Hairy Indigo <sup>2</sup>	9,400	15,000	6.0	9.6

† Production data based on 25% increase in lower yield range values from FSG G154XB121FL.

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

# Superscript numbers refer to references.

**Production Curves:**



## Physiographic Features

Dominantly very deep, nearly level to sloping, moderately well drained or well drained soils formed 20 to 40 inches of sandy marine deposits over loamy marine deposits. These soils occur on summits, shoulders, and back slopes of marine terraces. Diagnostic subsurface horizon is an argillic horizon. The organic matter content of the surface layer is dominantly very low or low. Unless limed, the reaction in the surface layer ranges from very strongly acid to slightly acid.

## Climatic Features

**Freeze-free period (>28° F 9 years in 10 at least):**  
 averages 316 d (range 278-365 d)

**Length of growing season (>32° F 9 years in 10 at least):** averages 285 d (range 243-365 d)

**Annual minimum temperature (°F in month of January):**  
 average 50.2 (range 45.2-59.2)

**USDA Plant Hardiness Zone:**  
 9a (20-25° F, Ocala)  
 9b (25-30° F, Orlando)

**Mean annual precipitation (inches):**  
 averages 51.09 (range 47.70-67.03)

## Soil Properties

**Percent Slope:** Dominantly 0 to 8 percent, but ranges to 10 percent

**Surface Texture:** Fine sand, sand, Loamy fine sand, loamy sand, coarse sand

**Sand Content of Surface Layer:** 82 to 95 percent

**Clay Content of Surface Layer:** 1 to 7 percent

**Organic Matter Content of Surface Layer:** 0.5 to 4.0

**Cation Exchange Capacity of Surface Layer (meq/100g):**  
 0.3 to 4.8

**Effective Cation Exchange Capacity of Surface Layer (meq/100g):** 0.2 to 3.1

**Bulk Density of Surface Layer (g/cc):** 1.38 to 1.65

**Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity of Surface Layer:** Rapid

**Soil Reaction of Surface Layer:** 4.5 to 6.5 (unless limed)

**Available Water Capacity (0 to 30 inches):** 0.3 to 2.0 inch per inch

**Depth to Finer Textured:** 20 to 40 inches

**Depth to Bedrock:** Greater than 80 inches. A few members have bedrock between 40 and 80 inches.

**Drainage Class (Agronomic):** Moderately well, Well

**Depth to Seasonal High Water Table (during wet periods):** 3.0 to 5.0 feet below the surface

**Flooding:** None. A few members are rarely or very rarely flooded with brief duration.

**Ponding:** None

## Monthly precipitation (inches) and temperature (F):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Precip avg</b>	3.04	2.89	3.69	2.40	3.52	6.86	7.17	7.36	6.22	2.79	2.38	2.47
<b>Avg Min</b>	48.1	49.6	54.4	58.5	65.0	70.7	72.3	72.5	71.0	61.0	56.6	51.0
<b>Avg Temp</b>	60.0	61.5	66.4	68.6	76.6	80.8	81.8	81.8	80.4	74.2	67.5	61.5
<b>Avg Max</b>	70.8	72.9	77.9	82.4	87.7	90.6	91.7	91.4	89.5	84.0	77.9	72.2

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

## FSG Documentation

### Inventory Data References:

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8. Williams, M.J., C.G. Chambliss, and J.D. Brolmann. 1993. Potential of 'Savanna' stylo as a stockpiled forage for the subtropical USA. Journal of Production Agric. 6:553-556.
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State Correlation: (NA)

### Forage Suitability Group Approval:



Greg Hendricks, State Soil Conservationist



Tom Weber, State Soil Scientist

<b>Appendix 1: Climate Station Locations</b>		
<b>COOP ID (FL=08)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>
945	Bradenton	Manatee
6414	Ocala	Marion
6628	Orlando Intl. Air.	Orange
7851	St. Leo	Pasco
7886	St. Petersburg	Pinellas
8824	Tarpon Springs	Pinellas
478	Bartow	Polk
4707	Lake Alfred Exp Stn	Polk
4797	Lakeland	Polk
5973	Mountain Lake	Polk
9707	Winter Haven	Polk
1978	Crescent City	Putnam
2915	Federal Point	Putnam
6753	Palatka	Putnam
7982	Sanford Orlando	Seminole
1163	Bushnell	Sumter
2229	Deland	Volusia