

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP SUBIRRIGATED

FSG No.: G055AY700ND

Major Land Resource Area - Northern Black Glaciated Plains

Physiographic Features

The soils in this group are found on level and nearly level glacial lake, outwash, till, and flood plains, and on terraces and interbeach areas. They can also occur in swales and depressions of upland areas.



	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	980	2300
Slope (percent):	0	6
Flooding:		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Runoff Class:	Negligible	Low

Climatic Features

This group occurs in a mid-continental climate characterized by wide seasonal temperature and precipitation fluctuations and extremes.

Annual precipitation varies widely from year to year in MLRA 55A. Average annual precipitation for all climate stations listed below is about 17.5 inches. About 79 percent of that occurs during the months of April through September. On average there are about 27 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during the same time frame. 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 26 inches at Hannah, ND to 44 inches at Belcourt Keya, ND. Days with snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 64 days at Velva, ND to 123 days at Hannah, ND.

Average July temperatures are about 68 degrees F., and average January temperatures are about 3 degrees F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA during the years 1961 to 1990 are a low of -39 at both Petersburg and Oakes in ND, and a high of 108 recorded at both Granville and Velva. The MLRA lies in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 3A and 3b.

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)	101	128
Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	Jun 03	May 19

	From	To
Last Frost in Spring (32 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	Jun 22	May 29
First Frost in Fall (32 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Aug 21	Sep 11
First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 04	Sep 18
Length of Growing Season (32 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	64	104
Growing Degree Days (40 deg):	3022	3776
Growing Degree Days (50 deg):	1541	2129
Annual Minimum Temperature:	-40	-30
Mean annual precipitation (inches):	16	19

Monthly precipitation (inches) and temperature (F):

2 years in 10:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precip. Less Than	0.23	0.18	0.19	0.48	0.93	1.30	0.96	0.82	0.69	0.38	0.15	0.15
Precip. More Than	0.86	0.81	0.99	2.85	3.64	4.14	4.81	4.11	3.18	2.03	0.78	0.78
Monthly Average:	0.49	0.44	0.68	1.42	2.21	3.00	2.75	2.35	1.95	1.14	0.49	0.50
Temp. Min.	-9.2	-2.5	9.9	25.3	37.5	47.2	52.4	49.7	39.2	29.6	14.2	-2.4
Temp. Max.	17.6	25.6	37.8	55.4	69.3	78.2	84.5	83.5	70.6	59.0	38.3	22.6
Temp. Avg.	3.0	9.3	22.5	39.6	53.1	62.6	67.7	65.7	54.4	43.2	25.1	8.9

<u>Climate Station</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
ND0626	Belcourt, ND	1961	1987
ND2158	Devils Lake, ND	1961	1990
ND2525	Edmore, ND	1961	1990
ND3686	Granville, ND	1961	1990
ND3936	Hannah, ND	1961	1986
ND4958	Langdon Exp. Farm, ND	1961	1990
ND6025	Mohall, ND	1961	1990
ND7664	Rolla, ND	1961	1990
ND8792	Towner, ND	1961	1990
ND8913	Upham, ND	1961	1990
ND8990	Velva, ND	1961	1986

Soil Interpretations

The soils in this group are moderately fine to coarse textured and mostly somewhat poorly drained. They have a seasonal water table within 18 to 48 inches of the surface during part of the growing season.

Drainage Class:	Somewhat poorly drained	To	Moderately well drained
Permeability Class: (0 - 40 inches)	Rapid	To	Moderately slow
Frost Action Class:		To	

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Depth:	72	
Surface Fragments >3" (% Cover):	0	3
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	0.5	9.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	0	8

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	0	3
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	5.6	8.4
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	3	12
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	0	0

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 those species can be accessed at <http://plants.usda.gov/>

Cool Season Grasses	Symbol		Warm Season Grasses	Symbol	
Altai wildrye	LEAN3	F	Big bluestem	ANGE	G
Bluebunch/Quackgrass Hybrid		G	Indiangrass	SONU2	G
Canada wildrye	ELCA4	F	Little bluestem	SCSC	G
Creeping foxtail	ALAR	F	Switchgrass	PAVIV	G
Crested wheatgrass		F			
Dahurian wildrye	ELDA3	F	Legumes	Symbol	
Green needlegrass	NAVI4	F	Alfalfa	MESA	G
Intermediate wheatgrass	THIN6	F	Alsike clover	TRHY	F
Meadow bromegrass	BRBI2	G	America vetch	VIAM	F
Pubescent wheatgrass	THIN6	F	Birdsfoot trefoil	LOCO6	G
Reed canarygrass	PHAR3	F	Canada milkvetch	ASCAC6	G
Slender wheatgrass	ELTR7	G	Cicer milkvetch	ASCI4	F
Smooth bromegrass	BRINI2	G	Hairy vetch	VIVI	F
Tall wheatgrass	THPO7	G	Sweet clover	MELIL	G
Western wheatgrass	PASM	G	White clover	TRRE3	F

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

Production Estimates

Production estimates listed here should only be used for making general management recommendations. On site 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	<u>Dryland</u>	
	Management Intensity	
	<u>Low</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>High</u> (lbs/ac)
Alfalfa	4600	9400
Alfalfa/Intermediate wheatgrass	4000	8300
Alfalfa/Smooth brome	4000	8300
Big bluestem	4000	8000
Creeping foxtail	4300	7400
Indiangrass	3400	6200
Intermediate wheatgrass	3100	7700
Reed canarygrass	6000	10300
Smooth brome	3100	7700
Switchgrass	4300	9700

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: ND0001
Growth Curve Name: Alfalfa
Growth Curve Description: Alfalfa

<u>Percent Production by Month</u>											
<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	30	20	15	5	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: ND0002
Growth Curve Name: Cool season grass
Growth Curve Description: Cool season grass

<u>Percent Production by Month</u>											
<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	40	35	10	5	5	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: ND0003
Growth Curve Name: Warm season grass
Growth Curve Description: Warm season grass

<u>Percent Production by Month</u>											
<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

Soil Limitations

These soils have few limitations to the production of climatically adapted forage crops, and production potential is high. Forage species like alfalfa that are less tolerant of saturated soils for extended periods of time may suffer stand loss during wet years when watertables stay abnormally high. Due to the dominant upward movement of water these soils may become saline. A number of them have a high lime content near the surface which reduces the availability of some plant nutrients. These soils are also subject to compaction if grazed or machinery is operated on them when wet. Coarser textured soils in this group may be subject to soil blowing when establishing new stands.

Management Interpretations

When establishing new stands select species that are tolerant of somewhat poorly drained, occasionally saturated soils, and that are also capable of utilizing the additional moisture inherent to these soils. Excluding livestock and machinery during extended periods of soil wetness will help reduce soil compaction. On coarser textured soils incorporate wind erosion control practices during stand establishment.

Pasture and hayland can include considerations for wildlife. Delaying grazing on portions of the pasture or rotating pastures will allow nest initiation of grassland nesting birds or species of concern. Nest initiation of most grassland nesting birds occurs from April 15 to June 1. Delaying haying until after July 15 allows for most species to fledge their young. Consider planting species with later maturity to allow for harvesting after nests have fledged. Avoid mowing around the field. Mow back and forth or from the inside to the outside of the field. Consider using flushing bars on swathers and mowers.

FSG Documentation

Similar FSGs:

FSG ID

FSG Narrative

G055AY500ND

Overflow soils do not have watertables within 18-48 inches of the surface during part of the growing season.

G055AY895ND

Saline soils have higher levels of salinity and are less productive.

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 North Dakota counties in MLRA 55A
- North Dakota NRCS Field Office 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: North Dakota

Forage Suitability Group Approval:

Original Author: Tim Nordquist

Original Date: 9/3/2003

Approval by: Jeff Printz

Approval Date: March 2005