

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP Droughty Loam

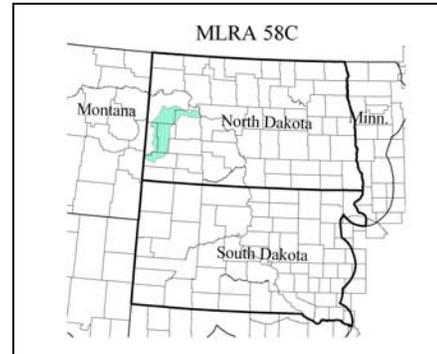
FSG No.: G058CY120ND

Major Land Resource Area: 058C - Northern Rolling High Plains, Northeastern Part

Physiographic Features

The soils in the Droughty Loam group are on alluvial fans, hills, escarpments, stream terraces, till plains, and flood plains.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	2000	3300
Slope (percent):	0	15
Flooding:		
Frequency:	None	Occasional
Duration:	None	Brief
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 58C. Average annual precipitation for all climate stations listed below is about 15 inches. About 77 percent of that occurs during the months of April through September. On average there are about 32 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during the same time period. 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 23 inches at Amidon, ND to 39 inches at Dunn Center, ND. Days with soil-insulating snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 27 at Amidon to 95 days at Trotters, ND.

Average July temperatures are about 70 degrees F., and average January temperatures are about 13 degrees F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA during the years 1961 to 1990 are a low of -43 at Keene, and a high of 110 at Trotters. The average dates of last and first frost (32 deg) for the listed stations are May 16 and September 17 for an average frost free period of 125 days. The MLRA lies in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 3b and 4a.

At Williston, ND, the closest station with records, the average annual wind speeds are about 10 MPH. The highest wind speeds occur during March through June, but average monthly wind speeds do not vary significantly throughout the year. It is cloudy about 160 days a year with the lowest incidence of cloudiness occurring during the summer months. Average morning relative humidity in June is about 81 percent and average afternoon humidity is 54 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)	116	130
Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	Jun 03	May 17
Last Frost in Spring (32 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	Jun 16	May 29
First Frost in Fall (32 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Aug 20	Sep 07
First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 02	Sep 18
Length of Growing Season (32 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	90	112
Growing Degree Days (40 deg):	3722	4311
Growing Degree Days (50 deg):	2004	2440
Annual Minimum Temperature:	-25	-35
Mean annual precipitation (inches):	15	16

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	0.12	0.11	0.22	0.38	0.91	1.74	0.92	0.57	0.46	0.29	0.18	0.14
Precip. More Than	0.56	0.57	0.93	2.24	3.53	4.22	3.20	2.49	2.39	1.72	0.91	0.60
Monthly Average:	0.36	0.37	0.60	1.32	2.22	3.02	2.19	1.55	1.55	1.17	0.59	0.37
Temp. Min.	2.6	10.1	19.2	30.3	41.8	50.7	55.5	54.0	43.3	32.3	18.4	7.0
Temp. Max.	24.0	31.4	42.0	56.5	68.7	77.5	84.4	84.3	72.3	58.7	39.1	28.1
Temp. Avg.	13.3	20.7	30.6	43.4	55.3	64.1	69.9	69.2	57.8	45.5	28.7	17.5

<u>Climate Station</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
ND 4571	Keene, ND	1971	2000
ND9246	Watford City 14 S, ND	1971	2000
ND2365	Dunn Center 2 S, ND	1971	2000
ND2809	Fairfield, ND	1971	2000
ND5813	Medora, ND	1971	2000
ND8812	Trotters 3 SSE, ND	1971	2000
ND0209	Amidon, ND	1971	2000

Soil Interpretations

This group consists of very deep, well drained, moderately coarse textured soil formed from wind or water deposited materials. Permeability is moderately rapid and available water capacity is moderate.

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

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Depth:	72	
Surface Fragments >3" (% Cover):	0	3
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	0.5	2.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	0	8

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	0	0
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	6.6	9
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	7	9
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	0	17

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 on the web at <http://plants.usda.gov/>.

Cool Season Grasses	<u>Symbol</u>		Warm Season Grasses	<u>Symbol</u>	
Altai wildrye	LEAN3	F	Big bluestem	ANGE	F
Basin wildrye	LECI4	F	Blue grama	BOGR2	G
Bluebunch/Quackgrass Hybrid		G	Little bluestem	SCSC	G
Canada wildrye	ELCA4	G	Prairie sandreed	CALO	G
Crested wheatgrass	AGCR	G	Sand bluestem	ANHA	G
Dahurian wildrye	ELDA3	G	Sideoats grama	BOCU	G
Green needlegrass	NAVI4	F			
Intermediate wheatgrass	THIN6	F	Legumes	<u>Symbol</u>	
Pubescent wheatgrass	THIN6	F	Alfalfa	MESA	F
Russian wildrye	PSJU3	F	American vetch	VIAM	G
Siberian wheatgrass	AGFR	F	Canada milkvetch	ASCAC6	F
Slender wheatgrass	ELTR7	F	Cicer milkvetch	ASCI4	G
Smooth brome grass	BRINI2	F	Purple prairieclover	DAPUP	G
Western wheatgrass	PASM	F	Sainfoin	ONVI	G
			Sweetclover	MELIL	G
			White prairieclover	DACAC	G

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>	<u>High</u>
	(lbs/ac)	(lbs/ac)
Alfalfa	1700	2900
Alfalfa/Crested wheatgrass	1400	2300

	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Alfalfa/Intermediate wheatgrass	1400	2300
Alfalfa/Pubescent wheatgrass	1400	2300
Crested wheatgrass	1100	2000
Intermediate wheatgrass	1100	2000
Pubescent wheatgrass	1100	2200

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

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.

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

G058CY100ND

Loamy soils have greater available water capacity and greater production potential.

G058CY130ND

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 North Dakota counties in MLRA 58C
- North Dakota NRCS Field Office Technical Guides
- 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: 10/8/200

Approval by: Jeff Printz

Approval Date: March 2005