

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP Claypan

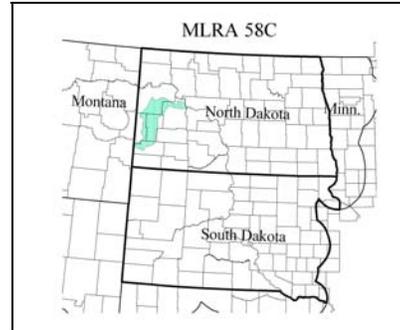
FSG No.: G058CY800ND

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

Physiographic Features

The soils in the Claypan group are on hills, alluvial fans, sedimentary plains, and stream terraces.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	2000	3300
Slope (percent):	1	9
Flooding:		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Runoff Class:	Medium	Very high



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.

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 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:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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

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

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Depth:	72	
Surface Fragments >3" (% Cover):		
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	1.0	2.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	4	16
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	4	13
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	7.4	9.6
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	7	7
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	3	10

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>	
Bluebunch/Quackgrass Hybrid		F	Blue grama	BOGR2	F
Dahurian wildrye	ELDA3	F			
Slender wheatgrass	ELTR7	F	Legumes	<u>Symbol</u>	
Western wheatgrass	PASM	G	Alfalfa	MESA	F
			Sweetclover	MELIL	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>	<u>High</u>
	(lbs/ac)	(lbs/ac)
Alfalfa	1800	3700
Alfalfa/Intermediate wheatgrass	1500	3000
Intermediate wheatgrass	1500	3000
Tall wheatgrass	1300	2900
Western wheatgrass	900	1920

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 severe limitations to the production of climatically adapted forage species. The claypan and the soluble salts and sodicity in the subsoil produce an unfavorable rooting environment, limiting species selection and production potential.

Management Interpretations

The impact on yields can be reduced by selecting forage species that are tolerant of salinity and sodicity and can root in dense, clayey subsoils.

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

G058CY210ND

FSG Narrative

Clayey subsoils are less saline and/or sodic and have a more favorable rooting zone.

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: 10/15/20

Approval by: Jeff Printz

Approval Date: March 2005