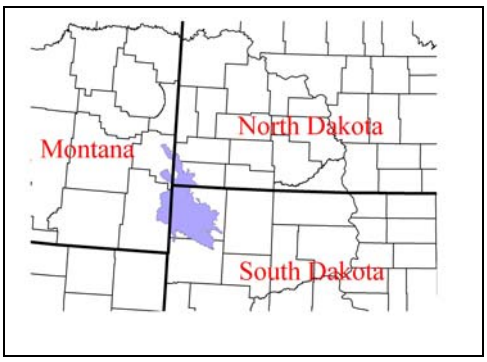
FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP
SAND

FSG No.: G058DY300SD
Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 058D - Northern Rolling High Plains, Eastern Part

Physiographic Features

The soils in the sands group are found on uplands, low terraces, and flood plains.



	Minimum	Maximum
Elevation (feet):	2300	3300
Slope (percent):	0	12
Flooding:		
Frequency:	None	Occasional
Duration:	None	Brief
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Runoff Class:	Negligible	Very low

Climatic Features

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

Average annual precipitation for all climate stations in MLRA 58D listed below is about 16 inches. Although average annual precipitation is low, about 80 percent occurs during the growing season months of April through September. On average, there are about 25 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during that same time period.

Average annual snowfall ranges from 25 inches at Amidon, North Dakota (ND), to 46 inches at Redig, South Dakota (SD). Days with insulating snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 22 at Ludlow, SD, to 81 at Bowman, ND.

Average July temperatures across the MLRA are about 70°F and average January temperatures are about 15°F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA during the years 1961 to 1990 are a low of -46°F recorded at Camp Crook, SD, and a high of 115 recorded at Ludlow, SD. The MLRA lies mostly in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4a with a small area of colder 3b on the western edge of Harding County in South Dakota.

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):	107	131
(9 years in 10 at least)		
Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg):	May 25	May 15
(1 year in 10 later than)		
Last Frost in Spring (32 deg):	Jun 19	May 28
(1 year in 10 later than)		
First Frost in Fall (32 deg):	Aug 26	Sep 06
(1 year in 10 earlier than)		
First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg):	Sep 02	Sep 16
(1 year in 10 earlier than)		

	From	To
Length of Growing Season (32 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	80	110
Growing Degree Days (40 deg):	3815	4091
Growing Degree Days (50 deg):	2250	2108
Annual Minimum Temperature:	-35	-25
Mean annual precipitation (inches):	14	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	0.07	0.12	0.24	0.45	1.18	1.52	0.64	0.45	0.36	0.31	0.14	0.14
Precip. More Than	0.57	0.44	1.18	2.99	4.25	4.70	2.84	2.10	2.31	1.71	0.86	0.74
Monthly Average:	0.34	0.32	0.64	1.65	2.79	3.20	2.03	1.36	1.35	0.98	0.44	0.41
Temp. Min.	2.8	8.5	18.3	29.3	40.1	49.2	54.3	51.7	40.2	29.8	16.8	5.8
Temp. Max.	29.4	35.2	44.7	58.6	68.9	79.1	88.0	87.4	75.6	62.8	44.2	31.8
Temp. Avg.	15.5	21.1	30.5	43.1	54.1	63.7	70.5	69.0	57.4	46.2	30.7	18.7

Climate Station	Location	From	To
SD1294	Camp Crook, SD	1961	1990
SD5048	Ludlow, SD	1961	1990
SD6907	Ralph, SD	1961	1990
SD7062	Redig, SD	1961	1990
ND0209	Amidon, ND	1961	1990
ND0995	Bowman, ND	1961	1990

Soil Interpretations

This group consists of very deep, somewhat excessively to excessively drained, coarse textured soils formed from sandy wind or water deposited materials. Permeability is rapid, and available water capacity is low.

Drainage Class:	Somewhat excessively drained	To	Excessively drained
Permeability Class: (0 - 40 inches)	Rapid	To	Rapid
Frost Action Class:	Low	To	Low

	Minimum	Maximum
Depth:	72	
Surface Fragments >3" (% Cover):		
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	0.5	2.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	0	2
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	0	0
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	5.6	8.4
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	5	6
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	0	3

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	Symbol	
Altai wildrye	LEAN3	F
Bluebunch/Quackgrass Hybrid		F
Crested wheatgrass	AGCR	G
Pubescent wheatgrass	THIN6	F
Streambank wheatgrass	ELLAL	G
Thickspike wheatgrass	ELMA7	F
Western wheatgrass	PASM	F

Warm Season Grasses	Symbol	
Big bluestem	ANGE	F
Little bluestem	SCSC	G
Prairie sandreed	CALO	G
Sand bluestem	ANHA	G
Sideoats grama	BOCU	F
Switchgrass	PAVIV	F

Legumes	Symbol	
Alfalfa	MESA	G
Cicer milkvetch	ASCI4	G
Purple prairieclover	DAPUP	F
White prairieclover	DACAC	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. Onsite 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. 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	Dryland Management Intensity	
	Low (lbs/ac)	High (lbs/ac)
Alfalfa	2000	3100
Alfalfa/Crested wheatgrass	1700	2600
Alfalfa/Pubescent wheatgrass	1700	2600
Crested wheatgrass	1400	2000
Pubescent wheatgrass	1400	2000
Sand bluestem	1700	3100

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

Percent Production by Month

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

Percent Production by Month

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

Percent Production by Month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	10	40	35	15	0	0	0	0

Soil Limitations

Soil blowing is a severe hazard during stand establishment or renovation of forage stands on the soils of this group. Bare areas where livestock concentrate are also susceptible. Production potential is low to moderate due to the low available water capacity and droughtiness of these soils. Also, these soils are typically low in native fertility and have reduced capacity to supply plant nutrients. Species choices are somewhat limited for pasture and hayland for these same reasons.

Management Interpretations

The impact on yields of the low available water capacity of these soils can be reduced by selecting forage species that are highly tolerant to periods of drought and inadequate soil moisture and can grow on coarse soils. Incorporate wind erosion control practices during stand establishment. Properly locating facilitating practices such as fences, lanes, and water developments can help control livestock movement, reduce trailing perpendicular to steeper slopes, evenly distribute grazing pressure, and reduce bare areas.

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 FSG's:

FSG ID	FSG Narrative
G058DY130SD	Very Droughty Loam soils have finer textures than sands.

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 for soil surveys in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana counties in MLRA 58D
- NRCS North Dakota Field Office Technical Guide, South Dakota Field Office Technical Guide and Montana Field Office Technical Guide
- NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook
- Various North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana 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, South Dakota and Montana

Forage Suitability Group Approval:

Original Author:	Tim Nordquist
Original Date:	4/17/2002
Approval by:	Dave Schmidt
Approval Date:	March 2005