

## FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP LOAM

**FSG No.:** G060AY100SD

**Major Land Resource Area:** 60A - Pierre Shale Plains and Badlands

### Physiographic Features

The soils in this group typically occur on upland positions such as backslopes, footslopes, and toeslopes. They also occur on rarely flooded flood plains and on stream terraces.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
<b>Elevation (feet):</b>	2600	3300
<b>Slope (percent):</b>	0	15
<b>Flooding:</b>		
<b>Frequency:</b>	None	Rare
<b>Duration:</b>	None	Very Brief
<b>Ponding:</b>		
<b>Depth (inches):</b>		
<b>Frequency:</b>	None	None
<b>Duration:</b>	None	None
<b>Runoff Class:</b>	Negligible	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 60A. Average annual precipitation for all climate stations listed below is about 15 inches. About 77 percent of the annual precipitation occurs during the months of April through September. On average, there are about 24 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during that 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 25 inches at Newell, South Dakota (SD), to 45 inches at Oelrichs, SD. Snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 40 days at Newell, SD, to 82 days at Colony, Wyoming (WY.)

Average July temperatures across the MLRA are about 74<sup>0</sup>F and average January temperatures are about 20<sup>0</sup>F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA during the years 1961 to 1990 are a low of -47 at Redbird, WY, and a high of 114 recorded at Oelrichs, SD. The MLRA lies mostly in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4a and 4b.

At Rapid City, SD, the closest station with records, it is cloudy about 139 days a year. Average morning relative humidity in June is about 78 percent and average afternoon humidity is 49 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>

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>Freeze-free period (28 deg)(days):</b> (9 years in 10 at least)	118	137
<b>Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 later than)	May 26	May 14

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>Last Frost in Spring (32 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 later than)	Jun 07	May 26
<b>First Frost in Fall (32 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 02	Sep 13
<b>First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 11	Sep 21
<b>Length of Growing Season (32 deg)(days):</b> (9 years in 10 at least)	96	117
<b>Growing Degree Days (40 deg):</b>	4231	4913
<b>Growing Degree Days (50 deg):</b>	2400	2852
<b>Annual Minimum Temperature:</b>	-30	-20
<b>Mean annual precipitation (inches):</b>	14	17

**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	0.11	0.09	0.30	0.65	1.05	1.04	1.06	0.52	0.37	0.38	0.20	0.15
Precip. More Than	0.49	0.74	1.27	2.50	4.02	4.63	2.98	2.22	1.68	1.62	0.89	0.66
<b>Monthly Average:</b>	0.33	0.42	0.83	1.71	2.69	2.78	1.99	1.47	1.24	1.03	0.53	0.41
<b>Temp. Min.</b>	5.3	10.9	20.0	30.6	40.5	49.8	56.3	53.2	41.7	29.9	18.2	6.5
<b>Temp. Max.</b>	34.3	40.5	49.5	61.5	71.8	82.5	91.2	89.8	79.0	65.6	48.3	36.3
<b>Temp. Avg.</b>	19.9	25.3	34.0	45.8	56.0	66.0	73.6	71.5	60.2	48.0	33.5	22.0

<u>Climate Station</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
SD0236	Ardmore, SD	1961	1990
SD6054	Newell, SD	1961	1990
SD6212	Oelrichs, SD	1961	1990
SD8911	Wasta, SD	1961	1990
SD9537	Zeona, SD	1961	1990
WY1905	Colony, WY	1961	1990
WY7555	Redbird, WY	1961	1990

**Soil Interpretations**

This group consists of moderately deep to very deep, mostly well drained, medium to moderately fine textured soils formed mostly from alluvium, colluvium, and loess. Available water capacity is moderate to high and permeability is slow to moderate. Those soils with moderate depth are underlain by soft siltstone, mudstone, or silty shale that contributes to the total available water capacity.

<b>Drainage Class:</b>	Moderately well drained	To	Well drained
<b>Permeability Class:</b> (0 - 40 inches)	Slow	To	Moderate
<b>Frost Action Class:</b>	Low	To	Moderate

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
<b>Depth:</b>	20	
<b>Surface Fragments &gt;3" (% Cover):</b>	0	3
<b>Organic Matter (percent):</b> (surface layer)	0.5	4.0
<b>Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm):</b> (0 - 24 inches)	0	8
<b>Sodium Absorption Ratio:</b> (0 - 12 inches)	0	10
<b>Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH):</b> (0 - 12 inches)	6.1	8.4
<b>Available Water Capacity (inches):</b> (0 - 60 inches)	5	12
<b>Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent):</b> (0 - 12 inches)	0	15

**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://www.plants.usda.gov>.

<b>Cool Season Grasses</b>	<b><u>Dryland</u></b>	<b><u>Irrigated</u></b>
Altai wildrye	G	NS
Basin wildrye	G	NS
Crested wheatgrass	G	NS
Green needlegrass	G	NS
Intermediate wheatgrass	G	G
Meadow brome	F	G
Orchardgrass	NS	G
Pubescent wheatgrass	G	G
Russian wildrye	G	NS
Smooth brome	F	G
Streambank wheatgrass	G	NS
Tall wheatgrass	F	NS
Thickspike wheatgrass	G	NS
Western wheatgrass	G	NS

<b>Warm Season Grasses</b>	<b><u>Dryland</u></b>	<b><u>Irrigated</u></b>
Big bluestem	F	G
Little bluestem	G	NS
Prairie sandreed	F	NS
Sand bluestem	F	NS
Sideoats grama	G	NS
Switchgrass	F	G

<b>Legumes</b>	<b><u>Dryland</u></b>	<b><u>Irrigated</u></b>
Alfalfa	G	G
Birdsfoot trefoil	NS	G
Canada milkvetch	F	NS
Cicer milkvetch	G	F
Purple prairieclover	F	NS
Red clover	NS	G
Sainfoin	F	NS
White prairieclover	F	NS

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

NS - Species is not adapted to the site and should not be planted

**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. 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	Dryland		Irrigated	
	Management Intensity		Management Intensity	
	<u>Low</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>High</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>Low</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>High</u> (lbs/ac)
Alfalfa	2300	6000		
Alfalfa/Crested wheatgrass	2000	4900		
Alfalfa/Intermediate wheatgrass	2300	5400	8600	14300
Alfalfa/Pubescent wheatgrass	2300	5400	8600	14300
Alfalfa/Smooth brome			8600	14300
Crested wheatgrass	1700	3100		
Intermediate wheatgrass	1700	3700	6900	11400
Pubescent wheatgrass	1700	3700	6900	11400
Smooth brome			6900	11400

### 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:** SD0003  
**Growth Curve Name:** Irrigated Alfalfa  
**Growth Curve Description:** Irrigated Alfalfa, statewide

#### Percent Production by Month

<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	25	20	15	10	0	0	0

**Growth Curve Number:** SD0004  
**Growth Curve Name:** Cool season grass  
**Growth Curve Description:** Cool season grass, statewide

#### Percent Production by Month

<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	10	40	30	10	5	5	0	0	0

**Growth Curve Number:** SD0005  
**Growth Curve Name:** Warm season grass  
**Growth Curve Description:** Warm season grass, statewide

#### Percent Production by Month

<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

**Growth Curve Number:** SD0002  
**Growth Curve Name:** Alfalfa  
**Growth Curve Description:** MLRA 65, 64, 60A

#### Percent Production by Month

<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	35	35	15	5	5	0	0	0

### Soil Limitations

These soils have few limitations to the production of climatically adapted forage crops. On steeper slopes, water erosion is a potential problem during establishment, when renovating stands, and in thin established stands. Livestock trail erosion is a potential problem in established stands.

### Management Interpretations

Including sod forming grass species in stands, especially on steeper slopes, will reduce the potential for sheet and rill erosion. Incorporate 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.

## FSG Documentation

### Similar FSG's:

<u>FSG ID</u>	<u>FSG Narrative</u>
G060AY120SD	Droughty Loam soils are shallower or coarser textured resulting in lower available water capacity and lower production potential.
G060AY500SD	Overflow soils receive additional moisture due to a favorable landscape position resulting in a higher 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 South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana counties in MLRA 60A  
South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana 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: MT, NE, SD, WY

## Forage Suitability Group Approval

**Original Author:** Tim Nordquist  
**Original Date:** 4/17/02  
**Approval by:** Dave Schmidt  
**Approval Date:** 4/21/03