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“WW B. Dahl” OLD WORLD BLUESTEM

The correct species classification for “WW B. Dahl” Old World Bluestem is *Bothriochloa bladhii*. Most of the other released varieties of Old World Bluestem (including “Plains”, “WW Spar”, and “WW Ironmaster”) are classified as *Bothriochloa ischaemum*.

Range of Adaptation: General area of adaptation is same for “Plains” and “WW Spar” varieties. Best adapted to areas receiving from 15 to 35 inches of average rainfall. Has good winter hardiness throughout most of Texas. May freeze back (or possibly winterkill) every 3 to 5 years in North West Texas. Selected as superior strain for use in central and south Texas.

Site and Soil Adaptation: Best adapted to sandy loam, loam, silt loam, or clay loam soils. NOT ADAPTED TO WET SITES OR ALKALINE SOILS.

Seeding Dates: Same as for other perennial, warm-season grasses.

Seeding Recommendations: Seeding rate is 1.2 pounds PLS per acre. Seedbed should be firm, smooth, and weed free. It is necessary in some regions of western Texas to seed into dead litter residues remaining from the previous year’s crop to avoid bare ground during critical erosion periods.

Fertilizer Recommendations: For best results, fertilize according to a soil test for establishment and desired production levels. Local conditions, current growing conditions, and management objectives must be considered. Do not apply fertilizer until seedlings are evident, unless the seeded area has a serious fertility problem. Under high rates of fertilization in high rainfall areas, “WW B. Dahl” has been known to produce as much as 12,000 pounds of forage per acre. It is more realistic to expect 4000 to 8000 pounds per acre under moderate fertilization (30 to 60 pounds of N per acre). Like most other introduced grasses, it will produce fairly well without fertilizer for about two years. After that, production drops off sharply unless additional soil nutrients are applied.

Grazing Management Considerations: A rotational grazing system is the most efficient strategy. On dryland sites, a grazing cycle of 30 to 45 days is ideal, depending on rainfall. On irrigated pastures, a 28 to 30 day grazing cycle is best. Grazing periods should not exceed 6 to 7 days per pasture. A 20 to 40 day deferment period is generally sufficient between grazing periods. Prime grazing season is from May 15 to September 15 in most locations.

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