

USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Technical Guide
Area 4, Texas

SANDY

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

FE-56-64

Land Resource Area East Cross Timbers

Location Gainesville Bonham, Sherman

Date 9/15/72

- 208404193 TX
1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site is commonly smooth with few slopes in excess of 5 percent. Slopes range from 0-8 percent. Elevations range from about 400 to 800 feet.
 2. SOILS:
 - a. These are deep, well drained soils with sandy surfaces 20"-40" deep over subsoils. Runoff is slow, permeability is moderate, and available water capacity is high.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Stidham loamy fine sand
Dougherty loamy fine sand
 - c. Specific site location:
 3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is a post oak-blackjack oak savannah of tall and mid grasses. The oak overstory shades about 25 percent of the ground. Forbs are minor in extent but add food for wildlife and domestic herbivores as well as enhancing the beauty of the landscape. The herbaceous understory is dominated by little bluestem which makes up 25-50 percent of the total annual yield. Purpletop is a subdominant, making up 10-25 percent of the total annual yield.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>	
Little bluestem	40	Postoak, black-	15	Engelmann daisy		
Purpletop	15	jack oak		Maximilian sun-		
Indiangrass		Elm		flower		
Switchgrass		10		Coralberry		Lespedezas
Beaked Panicum		Greenbriar		Tickclovers		5
Big bluestem		5		Plum		Snoutbeans
Sand lovegrass		Hawthorns		Yellow neptunia		
Tall dropseed				Elbowbush		5
Silver bluestem		Grape		tivebriar		
Scribner panicum		5		American beauty-		Wildbeans
Fringeleaf paspalum		oerry		Prairie senna		
Purple lovegrass				Berryvines		Dayflower
Woollysheath				Spiderwort		Trace
threeawn						
Sedges						

- b. As retrogression occurs, the woody overstory forms a dense canopy while woody underbrush increases and climax mid and tall grasses decrease. Common invaders on the site include red lovegrass, broomsedge bluestem, splitbeard bluestem, red threeawn, western ragweed, yankeeweed, common persimmon, sumac and winged elm.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 2500 pounds per acre in poor years to 5000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Deer, dove and quail inhabit this site. A large variety of herbaceous and woody plants offers food and cover for game animals and birds as well as other wildlife.
5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>
Excellent	76-100	10-14
Good	51-75	12-18
Fair	26-50	16-22
Poor	0-25	20-28

- b. Introduced Species:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Percent of the Area Established</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Weeping lovegrass	8-10	10-14	14-20	20+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary 3/</u>	<u>Low Value 4/</u>
Little bluestem	Tall dropseed	Red lovegrass
Big bluestem	Silver bluestem	Broomsedge bluestem
Indiangrass	Scribner panicum	Splitbeard bluestem
Switchgrass	Fringeleaf paspalum	Red threeawn
Beaked panicum	Purple lovegrass	Western ragweed
Purpletop	Woollysheath threeawn	Sand dropseed
Sand lovegrass	Sedges	Gummy lovegrass
Maximilian sunflower	Yellow neptunia	Yankee weed
	Wildbeans	Narrowleaf rushfoil
	Lespedezas	Common persimmon
	Catclaw sensitivebriar	Winged elm

b. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Oak mast	American beautyberry	Eastern redcedar
Greenbriar	Hawthorns	Beebalm
Tickclovers	Oak buds & twigs	Western ragweed
Elm	Lespedezas	Prairie senna
	Elbowbush	Pricklypoppy
		Common persimmon

c. Quail and Dove 5/

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Western ragweed	Wildbeans	Little bluestem
Crotons	Gaura	Splitbeard bluestem
Dewberries	Lovegrass seed	Threeawns
Prairie senna		Yankee weed
Maximilian sunflower		Snicezeweeds
Engelmann daisy		
Catclaw sensitivebriar		
Yellow neptunia		
Tickclovers		

- 1/ This plant rating system gives guidance on animal preference for plant species as well as indicating competition between kinds of animals for various plants. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect a plant's ecological place in the climax plant community. Grazing preferences change depending upon the animal; upon plant palatability and nutritive value, stage of growth, season of use relative abundance, availability and plant associations.
- 2/ These species generally decrease under prolonged heavy grazing use.
- 3/ These plants usually increase initially, then decrease under prolonged heavy grazing use.
- 4/ These plants continue to increase with prolonged heavy grazing use.
- 5/ For these species the terms primary, secondary and low value indicate bird preference only. They do not indicate plant response to feeding pressure; nor do they have any ecological significance.

APPROVED:

John K. Bradley
AREA CONSERVATIONIST

9/25/72

DATE

Joe B. Morris

FIELD SPECIALIST - RANGE

9/25/72

DATE