

# Sorghum–sudangrass

*Sorghum bicolor x S. bicolor* var. sudanese



Daniel Georg Döhne

Season type: Summer annual

## Uses

Compaction reduction	E	Attract beneficials	G
Residue persistence	VG	Nitrogen scavenger	E
Erosion control	E	P&K scavenger	G
Weed control	VG	Forage quality	VG
Nematode control	VG		

E=Excellent; VG=Very Good; G=Good; F=Fair; P=Poor/None

Seeding rate: 30–40 lb/acre drilled; 40–50 lb/acre broadcast.

Planting date: Spring to early summer.

## Production

Residue: 8,000 to 10,000 lb/acre.

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Christian Fischer

A tall, fast-growing, heat-loving, drought-tolerant summer annual. Sorghum-sudangrass smothers weeds, suppresses some nematodes, and penetrates compacted sub-soil.

## Weeds

Fast-growing and heavy biomass producer smothers weeds. Some cultivars produce allelopathic compounds that suppress weed growth.

## Nematodes

Suppresses some nematodes as (1) a poor host; (2) great production of organic matter; (3) some cultivars produce nematicidal compounds.



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## Mowing

Mow or graze when 3 to 4 feet tall – encourages tillering and deeper root growth. Leave at least 6 inches of stubble to ensure good regrowth and weed suppression.

## Mixtures

**Buckwheat** germinates and grows rapidly to suppress early weeds. Tall legumes (**sunn hemp**, **sesbania**) match sorghum–sudangrass growth. Viny legumes (**cowpea**, **forage soybean**, **velvet bean**) use sorghum–sudangrass for support.



Sorghum–sudangrass can produce more organic matter per acre, at a lower cost, than any other major cover crop grown in the USA.

Adapted from *Managing Cover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
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Fact Sheet No. 04s  
January 2016

USDA-ARS-NSDL  
411 S. Donahue Dr.  
Auburn, AL 36832  
334-887-8596

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