Sorghum-sudangrass

Sorghum bicolor x S. bicolor var. sudanese



Daniel Georg Döhne

Season type: Summer annual

Uses

Compaction reduction	Е	Attract beneficials	G
Residue persistence	VG	Nitrogen scavenger	Е
Erosion control	Е	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

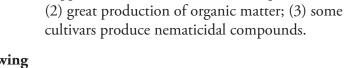
A tall, fast-growing, heat-loving, droughttolerant summer annual. Sorghumsudangrass smothers weeds, suppresses some nematodes, and penetrates compacted sub-soil.

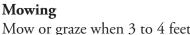
Weeds

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; cultivars produce nematicidal compounds.





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 sorghumsudangrass 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 Crover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition



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