

# TRIBE: ANDROPOGONEAE

Bluestem tribe



# Big bluestem

- ▣ *Andropogon gerardii*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Turkey-foot seed-head
- ▣ Stems bluish red color
- ▣ Low tolerance to grazing
- ▣ Excellent forage



# Broomsedge bluestem



- ▣ *Andropogon virginicus*
- ▣ Warm season grass
- ▣ Central to eastern Texas
- ▣ Robust inflorescence with overlapping sheath

# Silver bluestem



- ▣ *Bothriochloa laguroides*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Seed-heads with silver hair
- ▣ Stems crooked and branching
- ▣ Good Forage
- ▣ Forage preference depends on availability of other bunchgrasses

# Cane bluestem



- ▣ *Bothriochloa barbinodis*
- ▣ Warm season grasss
- ▣ Throughout Texas
- ▣ Looks like Silver bluestem but stems don't branch

# Old World Bluetems



- ▣ *Bothriochloa* sp.
  - KR bluestem
  - WW Spar bluestem
  - WW B-Dahl bluestem
- ▣ Bent stem
- ▣ Introduced warm-season perennials
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Decumbent growth (KR)
- ▣ Both Spar and B-Dahl produce large amount of leaf material
- ▣ Commonly used in seed mixtures
- ▣ Good forage

# Tanglehead



- ▣ *Heterpogon contortus*
- ▣ Warm season grass
- ▣ Mexico and southwestern Texas

# Little bluestem



- ▣ *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Leafy base with keeled leaves
- ▣ Seed-head partially enclosed by upper leaf
- ▣ Excellent forage



# Indiangrass



- ▣ *Sorghastrum nutans*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Yellow inflorescence
- ▣ Bent awns emerging along side seeds
- ▣ Excellent forage

# Johnsongrass



- ▣ *Sorghum halepense*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Rhizomes
- ▣ Open panicle
- ▣ Obvious midrib
- ▣ Good forage, but known to cause prussic acid poisoning when wilting

# Eastern gamagrass



- ❑ *Tripsacum dactyloides*
- ❑ Warm-season perennial
- ❑ Bunchgrass
- ❑ Separate male and female flowers (like the tassels of corn)
- ❑ Broad leaves
- ❑ Does not tolerate grazing well
- ❑ In west central Texas, usually found where soil moisture is high
- ❑ Excellent forage

# TRIBE: ARISTIDEAE

Threeawns

# Purple threeawn



- ▣ *Aristida purpurea*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Seed with three awns
- ▣ Purple-colored awns are long compared to Wright's threeawn
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Poor forage

# Old field threeawn



- ▣ *Aristida oligantha*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Disturbed sites
- ▣ Central Texas and throughout eastern U.S.

# Wright's threeawn



- ▣ *Aristida Wrightii*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Seeds with three awns
- ▣ Awns shorter than purple threeawn
- ▣ Poor forage

TRIBE: AVENEAE

# Wild oat



- ▣ *Avena fatua*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Cool season
- ▣ Throughout U.S.
- ▣ Good forage value

BROMEAE

# Cheatgrass



- ▣ *Bromus tectorum*
- ▣ Cool season
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Poor forage
- ▣ Invasive

# Rescuegrass



- ▣ *Bromus uniloides*
- ▣ Cool-season annual
- ▣ Flattened spikelets or seed-heads
- ▣ Leaves rough
- ▣ Fair forage

TRIBE: CYNDONTEAE

# Sideoats grama



- ▣ *Bouteloua curtipendula*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass, rhizomes present in some varieties
- ▣ Seeds hanging from one side
- ▣ Long hairs on leaf margins
- ▣ Good forage
- ▣ State grass of Texas

# Black grama



- ▣ *Bouteloua eriopoda*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Good forage
- ▣ Western Texas

# Blue grama



- ▣ *Bouteloua gracilis*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Sodgrass
- ▣ Good forage

# Hairy grama



- ▣ *Bouteloua hirsuta*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Stinger on tip of seedhead
- ▣ Rocky/shallow soils
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Fair forage

# Texas grama



- ▣ *Bouteloua rigidiseta*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Short, pointed leaves
- ▣ Bell-shaped seeds with short awns
- ▣ Seeds on one side of stem
- ▣ Fair forage

# Red Grama



- ▣ *Bouteloua trifida*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Seed-head resembles eyelashes
- ▣ Shortest leaves of grammas
- ▣ Poor forage

# Buffalograss



- ▣ *Buchloe dactyloides*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Sodgrass
- ▣ Male and female plants
- ▣ Male flower resembles flag
- ▣ Smooth nodes
- ▣ Fair forage, very palatable, but does not produce a lot of forage because of short stature

# Hooded windmillgrass



- ▣ *Chloris cucculata*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Seeds triangular and appear inflated
- ▣ Basal keeled leaves
- ▣ Fair forage

# Tumble windmillgrass



- ▣ *Chloris verticillata*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Basal keeled leaves
- ▣ Larger seed-head
- ▣ Poor forage

# Bermudagrass



- ▣ *Cynodon dactylon*
- ▣ Introduced perennial
- ▣ Sodgrass with stolons and rhizomes
- ▣ Culms/stems flattened
- ▣ Good forage
- ▣ With adequate water, may form monoculture

# Curly mesquite



- ▣ *Hilaria belangeri*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Sodgrass
- ▣ Often confused with buffalo grass
- ▣ Nodes of stems and stolons are fuzzy. Nodes of buffalograss are smooth.
- ▣ Poor forage. Animals were readily consume buffalograss before consuming curly mesquite

# Tobosa



- ▣ *Hilaria mutuca*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Papery-fanned seeds
- ▣ Non-herbaceous, sprouts leaves from existing stems in spring
- ▣ Scaly base, decumbent
- ▣ Poor forage

# Tumblegrass



- ▣ *Schedonnardus paniculatus*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Spirally twisted leaves
- ▣ Slender seed-head, with seeds embedded in stem
- ▣ Poor forage

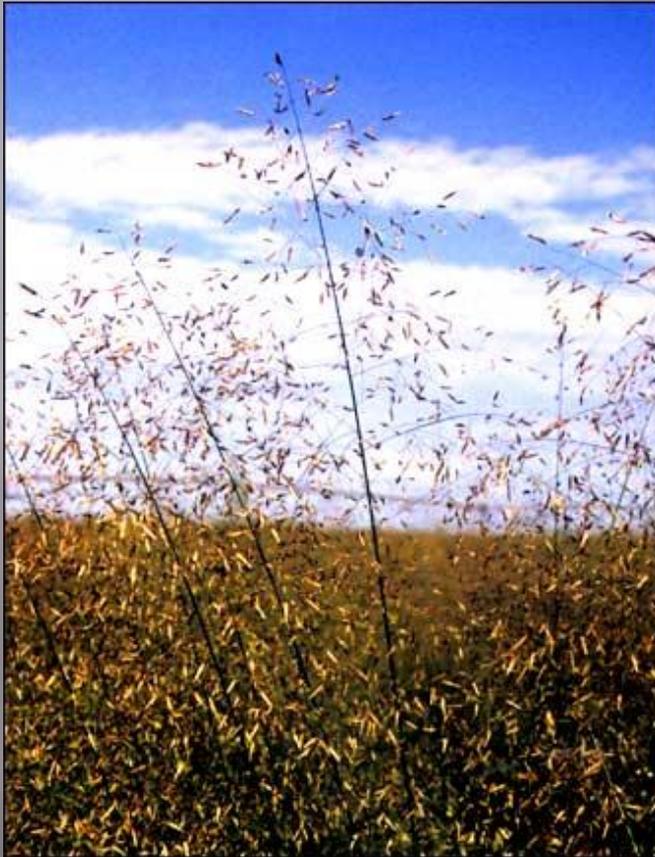
TRIBE: ERAGROSTEAE

# Weeping lovegrass



- ▣ *Eragrostis curvula*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ CRP
- ▣ Fair forage
- ▣ Texas and Southeast

# Sand lovegrass



- ▣ *Eragrostis trichodes*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Sandy soils
- ▣ Great Plains
- ▣ Good forage

# Wilman's lovegrass



- ▣ *Eragrostis superba*
- ▣ Introduced warm-season perennial
- ▣ Compressed spikelets
- ▣ Rapid germination in seeding mixtures
- ▣ Good forage

# Gummy lovegrass



- ▣ *Eragrostis curtipedicellata*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Seedhead is sticky
- ▣ Poor forage

# Hairy tridens



- ▣ *Erioneuron pilosum*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Small densely hairy seedhead
- ▣ Racing strips (white margins) on leaves
- ▣ Poor forage

# Green sprangletop



- ▣ *Leptochloa dubia*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Flowers in late summer
- ▣ Sprangled seed-head
- ▣ Sheaths keeled
- ▣ Good forage

# Bush muhly

- ▣ *Muhlenbergia porteri*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Western Texas
- ▣ Good forage



# Ring muhly



- ▣ *Muhlenbergia torreyi*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Poor forage

# Burrograss



- ▣ *Scleropogon brevifolius*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Western Texas
- ▣ Poor forage

# Alkali sacaton



- ▣ *Sporobolus airoides*
- ▣ warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Central and western Texas
- ▣ Moist sites/ saline sites
- ▣ Good forage

# Tall dropseed



- ▣ *Sporobolus compositus*
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Texas to Northeastern U.S.
- ▣ Clay soils
- ▣ Fair forage

# Sand dropseed



- ▣ *Sporobolus cryptandrus*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ Diamond-shaped seedhead
- ▣ “flag-leaf”
- ▣ Ring of hair at collar
- ▣ Fair forage. Palatable but very little biomass produced

# White tridens



- ▣ *Tridens albescens*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Mildew smell
- ▣ Basal leaves
- ▣ Seeds white with reddish tinge
- ▣ Poor forage

# Slim tridens



- ▣ *Tridens muticus*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Seedhead contracted
- ▣ Poor forage

# TRIBE: PANICEAE

# Arizona cottontop



- ▣ *Digitaria californica*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Flowers in late summer
- ▣ Hairy base
- ▣ Seeds covered with white hair
- ▣ Good forage

# Fall witchgrass



- ▣ *Digitaria cognata*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Open panicle seedhead
- ▣ Seeds on ends of branches
- ▣ Edge of leaves wavy or serrated
- ▣ Fair forage

# Texas cupgrass



- ▣ *Eriochloa sericea*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Seeds/flowers in rows compressed against stem
- ▣ Nodes pubescent
- ▣ Good forage

# Hall's panicum



- ▣ *Panicum hallii*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Shortgrass
- ▣ At maturity leaves curl and turn brown, resemble wood shavings
- ▣ Looks like a small Kleingrass
- ▣ Good forage, but does not produce a lot of forage because of small stature

# Vine mesquite



- ▣ *Panicum obtusum*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Sodgrass
- ▣ Long wire-like stolons
- ▣ Seeds in rows along stem
- ▣ Good forage

# Kleingrass



- ▣ *Panicum coloratum*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Knotty base
- ▣ Open panicle
- ▣ No distinguishing characteristics
- ▣ Good forage, but known to cause photosensitization (swell head) in sheep

# Switchgrass



- ▣ *Panicum virgatum*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Tall grass with large panicle seedhead
- ▣ Seeds on tip of branches
- ▣ Triangular patch of hair at base of leaves
- ▣ Excellent forage

# Dallasgrass



- ▣ *Paspalum dilatatum*
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Common in lawns
- ▣ Spikelets/seeds in two rows along branches of seedhead
- ▣ Good forage



# Bahia grass

- ▣ *Paspalum notatum*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Southeastern Texas
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Good forage



# Barnyard grass



- ▣ *Echinochloa crusgalli*
- ▣ Annual warm-season grass
- ▣ Common on disturbed sites
- ▣ Edge of leaves saw-toothed
- ▣ Fair forage

# Buffelgrass



- ▣ *Pennisetum ciliaris*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Good forage
- ▣ Dominant grass in south Texas

# Sand bur



- ▣ *Cenchrus incertus*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Warm-season grass
- ▣ Common on disturbed sites
- ▣ Stems spreading at the base and usually bent
- ▣ Poor forage

# Plains bristlegrass



- ▣ *Setaria leucopila*
- ▣ Warm-season perennial
- ▣ Bunchgrass
- ▣ Short bristles next to round seeds
- ▣ Usually growing in shade of tree or shrub
- ▣ Good forage

# Knotroot bristlegrass



- ▣ *Setaria geniculata*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Fair

POEAE

Bluegrass Tribe

# Ryegrass



- ▣ *Lolium perenne*
- ▣ Perennial or annual
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Good forage
- ▣ Dominating some locations in Edwards Plateau

# Kentucky bluegrass



- ▣ *Poa pratensis*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Good forage
- ▣ Throughout northern latitudes

# Sixweeks fescue



- ▣ *Vulpia octoflora*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Cool season
- ▣ Poor forage
- ▣ Common in Texas during wet winters/springs

# STIPEAE

Needlegrass Tribe

# Texas wintergrass



- ▣ *Stipa leucotricha*
- ▣ Cool-season bunchgrass
- ▣ Long awns on seeds
- ▣ Leaves feel rough
- ▣ Fair forage. Readily consumed by livestock until seed-heads emerge
- ▣ Problems with wool and mohair contamination once seeds mature

# TRITICEAE

Wheatgrass Tribe

# Canada wildrye



- ▣ *Elymus canadensis*
- ▣ Cool-season perennial
- ▣ Spike inflorescence, nodding at maturity
- ▣ Long awns
- ▣ Common only in wet springs in west-central Texas

# Bottlebrush



- ▣ *Elymus elymoides*
- ▣ Cool-season perennial
- ▣ Leaf blades with prominent awns
- ▣ Good forage until seed-heads emerge

# Western wheatgrass



- ▣ *Elymus smithii*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Cool season
- ▣ Good forage
- ▣ From northern Texas to throughout central and western U.S.

# Foxtail barley



- ▣ *Hordeum jubatum*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Cool season
- ▣ Throughout U.S.
- ▣ Poor forage

# Little Barley



- ▣ *Hordeum pussillum*
- ▣ Annual cool season
- ▣ Contracted seed-head with short, stout awns
- ▣ Matures in late spring/early summer
- ▣ Poor forage for livestock and wildlife