

# Blue Grama: *Bouteloua gracillis*



**Cultivation:** Blue grama is a major warm season grass with a prolific root system. This is an important, drought-resistant, short grass in the mixed prairies and throughout the Great Plain. Is most effective when grown in the dryer parts of the northern Great Plains. Blue grama demonstrates good drought, fair salinity and moderate alkalinity tolerance. It grows well on soil types as varied as sandy to clay-loam in texture; growth is not vigorous on true sands or clay. Is not tolerant of frequent flooding or submergence, shade and acidic soils.



**Plant Structure:** This is a native perennial grass that leaves are 4 inches high with seedheads 1-2 feet. Only 12-14 in. in full flower, this is among the shortest of the native ornamental grasses. It is fine-leaved and produces blue-green seedheads which are suspended horizontally like tiny brushes from the tip of each stem. The plant turns tan when dormant. Blue grama grows in bunches in the south, and as a sod-former in the north and at high elevations. It is a perennial.