



***Bouteloua curtipendula* – Side Oats Gramma**

COMMON NAME: Sideoats grama grass

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Bouteloua curtipendula* – the name honors Claudio Boutelou (1774-1842), a Spanish botanist and agronomist. The species name means “short-hanging.” Grama grasses belong to the family *Bouteloua*.

FLOWER COLOR: Tiny greenish flowers with bright orange-red stamens.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Mid to late summer.

SIZE: Medium height grass, 1 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Dense root system aggressive in dry soil. Easy to propagate from seed or division in Spring or Fall.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry sites. Full sun. Does not compete well with taller grasses. Excellent choice for dry sites.

NATURAL RANGE: Almost the entire US and the southern tier of Canadian provinces. Mostly in southern and western Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Small oat-like seeds appear on one side of the stem. Flower parts are tiny, featherlike and bright red. This is a very attractive mid-sized grass and provides nutritious seeds for birds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Little or no care is needed. Grows vigorously on loamy soils.

COMPANION PLANTS: Lead plant, big and little bluestems, silk and fall asters, pasque flower, flowering spurge, false boneset, fringed puccoon, prickly pear cactus, purple prairie clover, Dyer’s weed, prairie dropseed and prairie smoke.