

***Sorghastrum nutans* - Indian grass**

COMMON NAME: Indian grass

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sorghastrum nutans* - The genus *Sorghastrum* is derived from the word sorghum and *astrum* means “an imitation of” (sorghum). *Nutans* means nodding. There are three species of *Sorghastrum*: *S. nutans*, *S. elliotti*, and *S. secundum*.

FLOWER: The inflorescence is a narrow plume of greatly branching yellow flower clusters. Each spikelet is fringed with white hairs giving a silver and gold appearance. The whole plume is in the range of 5-12 inches long.

BLOOMING PERIOD: August, September, October.

SIZE: Three to seven feet.

BEHAVIOR: The plant spreads by seed and rhizomes in favorable conditions. The root reaches 6 feet deep.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: It obtains best growth in full sun and moist to mesic moisture conditions. It thrives in a variety of soils from rich loam to poor soil, acid to alkaline conditions, from sandy to clay.

NATURAL RANGE: It is found in the central and eastern United States and lower Canada, especially in the Great Plains and in tallgrass prairies.

SPECIAL FEATURES: It's a good forage plant. It attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Due to its deep roots it's a good soil stabilizer.

SUGGESTED CARE: Minimal care. Responds well to burning.

COMPANION PLANTS: Big and Little blue stem, switchgrass.