

## ■ Forage Suitability Groups

A forage suitability group is a grouping of soils with similar potentials and limitations for forage production. Soils within a forage suitability group are sufficiently uniform to:

- Support the same adapted forage plants under the same management conditions.
- Require similar conservation treatment and management to produce the forages selected in the quality and quantity desired
- Have comparable potential productivity.

**Tip: The following includes common forage suitability groups and recommended plant species to seed in the western half of North Dakota, and the eastern half of North Dakota and western Minnesota.**

**Tip: Other native and introduced legumes are available for use. Examples would include cicer milkvetch, sainfoin, birdsfoot trefoil, red clover, and purple prairie clover.**

**Loamy and silty soils (A1):**

deep, mostly well and moderately well drained, medium textured soils on uplands.

Western  
North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota/  
Western Minnesota

**Introduced:**

Altai wildrye

Altai wildrye

Crested wheatgrass

Intermediate wheatgrass

Intermediate wheatgrass

Pubescent wheatgrass

Pubescent wheatgrass

Meadow brome grass

Meadow brome grass

Russian wildrye

Russian wildrye

Smooth brome grass

Smooth brome grass

**Native:**

Green needlegrass

Big bluestem

Slender wheatgrass

Green needlegrass

Western wheatgrass

Indiangrass

Slender wheatgrass

Switchgrass

Western wheatgrass

**Legumes:**

Alfalfa

Alfalfa

Sweetclover

Sweetclover

## Thin upland soils (A2):

deep, well and excessively drained, medium textured soils occurring on ridges and knobs and subject to runoff.

Western  
North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota/  
Western Minnesota

### Introduced:

Crested wheatgrass

Intermediate wheatgrass

Pubescent wheatgrass

Pubescent wheatgrass

### Native:

Little bluestem

Little bluestem

Prairie sandreed

Prairie sandreed

Sideoats grama

Sideoats grama

### Legumes:

Alfalfa

Alfalfa

Sweetclover

Sweetclover

**Sandy soils (A6):**

deep, well and moderately well drained,  
moderately coarse textured soils on uplands and  
floodplains.

Western  
North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota/  
Western Minnesota

**Introduced:**

Crested wheatgrass

Pubescent wheatgrass

Intermediate wheatgrass

Pubescent wheatgrass

Smooth brome grass

**Native:**

Prairie sandreed

Sand bluestem

Prairie sandreed

Sand bluestem

Slender wheatgrass

Switchgrass

**Legumes:**

Alfalfa

Sweetclover

Alfalfa

Sweetclover

## Shallow to gravel soils (B1):

deep, well and excessively drained, medium to coarse textured soils with gravel and/or coarse sand at depths of 14 to 24 inches.

Western  
North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota/  
Western Minnesota

### Introduced:

Crested wheatgrass  
Pubescent wheatgrass

Crested wheatgrass  
Intermediate wheatgrass  
Pubescent wheatgrass

### Native:

Little bluestem  
Slender wheatgrass  
Western wheatgrass

Little bluestem  
Slender wheatgrass  
Western wheatgrass

### Legumes:

Alfalfa  
Sweetclover

Alfalfa  
Sweetclover

**Saline soils (G4):**

deep, somewhat poorly and poorly drained, coarse to fine-textured saline soils.

Western  
North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota/  
Western Minnesota

**Introduced:**

Altai wildrye

Altai wildrye

Russian wildrye

Russian wildrye

Tall wheatgrass

Tall wheatgrass

**Native:**

Alkali sacaton

Alkali sacaton

Beardless wildrye

Beardless wildrye

Western wheatgrass

Western wheatgrass

**Legumes:**

Alsike clover

Alsike clover

Sweetclover

Sweetclover

**Wet soils (C1):**

deep, poorly drained, coarse to fine-textured soils on floodplains or low areas on till and lake plains.

Western  
North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota/  
Western Minnesota

**Introduced:**

Creeping foxtail

Creeping foxtail

Meadow foxtail

**Native:**

Big bluestem

Big bluestem

Reed canarygrass

Reed canarygrass

Slender wheatgrass

Slender wheatgrass

Switchgrass

Switchgrass

**Legumes:**

Alsike clover

Alsike clover