Bouteloua curtipendula

Sideoats Grama

The short-grass prairies of North America are dominated by two grasses: Sideoats grama and Blue grama. Both warm-season, clumping grasses are extremely cold hardy and durable. They should be grown in full sun, although they are tolerant of varied soil conditions. In the late spring and summer masses of distinctive flower spikes and seed heads are produced. As winter approaches, these plants go dormant. Adequate irrigation is required to keep these grasses green during the extreme heat of the low deserts. The seeds are used by wildlife. Sideoats grama forms a clump to 2 feet tall by 12-15 inches in diameter, with a 2-foot-tall spike of purple-tinged flowers rising above the plant in the spring, summer and fall. After blooming, large seeds form on one side of the stiff stalk. Its narrow green leaves dry to a tan color in the winter months. It will benefit from good hard pruning or mowing in the early spring to remove dormant winter foliage and spent flower spikes. USDA Zone 4.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY	
SIZE (H X W)	2 feet x 1 - 1 1/2 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Purple
FLOWER SEASON	Spring to summer
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Moderate
HARDINESS	-30º F, Zone 4
PRUNING	Cut back in early spring

GRASS

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