

Bothriochloa ischaemum var. songarica

Family: Poaceae (Grass Family)

Common Name(s): yellow bluestem, King Ranch bluestem, K.R. bluestem

USDA Symbol: BOISS

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Grass/Grasslike

Habitat: Disturbed mesic, upland soils



Description: Cespitose grass with erect or decumbent-spreading culms 30-60cm tall, rounded sheaths and flate blades; inflorescence a terminal panicle, spikelets on few to several spicate primary branches. Panicle axis shorter than the branches; sessile spikelets never pitted.

From TAMU: Perennial, warm, introduced, fair grazing for wildlife and livestock. 18-48" tall bunchgrass with stems arising from almost a flat crown. The light green stems turn up and branch freely and turn a straw color when mature. The leaves are thicker near the collar and the upper surface is covered with silky hairs. The stems are naked at the top and each produces a terminal loose seed head. Both the sterile and fertile spikelets are conspicuous with slender, twisted, bent awns, and the branches have fine silky hairs.

History: Widely planted for grazing and on roadsides.

Biology & Spread: Primarily spread intentionally by man for cattle forage and as a component of roadside vegetation. Reproduces by seeds.

Ecological Threat: Very serious ecological threat due to widespread planting by ranchers and highway departments.

Resembles/Alternatives:

Management: Timely mowing, burning and herbicide application all suppress this species.

Distribution: Widely distributed across the southern half of the US.

US Nativity: Introduced to U.S.

