

SEED PRODUCTION COMPARISON OF THREE EASTERN GAMAGRASSES IN EAST TEXAS

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Two eastern gamagrass [*Tripsacum dactyloides* (L.) L] cultivars, 'Jackson' and 'Medina', and one accession (9043629, (Nacogdoches, County, TX) were comparatively evaluated for seed production characteristics. Plant morphology was recorded in 2007-2009 from a randomized complete block design with three replications at the East Texas Plant Materials Center on an Attoyac fine sandy loam. The number of vegetative and reproductive tillers were recorded from three random plants within the interior of each plot and reported as a percentage of the tiller type. The number of axillary inflorescences per primary reproductive tillers was also recorded. Seed quality parameters of percent fill, percent germination, and seed yield were also collected from plants within the interior of each plot. Accession 9043629 showed significant increases in the number of reproductive tillers with a mean of 40 as compared to 22 and 19 for 'Jackson' and 'Medina'. Significant increases in the number of axillary inflorescences per reproductive tiller, seed fill, and PLS yield were also detected for accession 9043629. Accession 9043629 will be elevated to release status under the name "Nacogdoches", and serve as a replacement for 'Medina' and 'Jackson'.