

Variety Description

Variety

SUSU

Species	Sudan grass
Botanical name	Sorghum bicolor x Sorghum sudanense
Ploidy	diploid
Seeding rate (main crop)	45-55 plants/m ² \triangleq 1 unit/ha
Seeding rate (catch crop)	90-110 plants/m ² \triangleq 2 pack/ha
Distance between rows	25-30 cm
Sowing periods ...	
... after rye or field grass	late May
... after whole-plant silage	mid-June to early July
... after early-season potatoes or similar crops	mid-June to late July
Sowing depth	2 cm
Fertiliser requirements ...	
... N	120 kg/ha
... P ₂ O ₅	50 kg/ha
... K ₂ O	250 kg/ha
Agronomic figures*:	
Leaf width	5
Sward colour	Yellow
Grain colour	Brown



Clarification of figures*:

1: very early, very low / 5: medium / 9: very late, very high

* **Source:** Cultivator classification

Variety description

SUSU is unbeatable as a catch crop. It combines high biomass and DM yields with an extremely short growing period and very low water requirement. SUSU is an ideal catch crop in intensive energy crop rotations and can even be cut multiple times under favourable conditions. As a photoperiod-neutral plant, SUSU forms panicles even on long growing days. This property adds to its high suitability as a catch crop.

Most important characteristics

C4 plant (like maize)
Drought tolerant
Ideal for sandy sites that warm up easy, mild climates
Possible alternative to maize in dry-warm sites

Usage

Sudan grass has lower water requirements than maize. It prefers dry, warm sites and a fine, well-distributed and consolidated seedbed prior to sowing. Cool, inactive or waterlogged sites with high clay content are not recommended. At the time of sowing, the ground temperature should be no lower than 12°C. Protect from weeds during the slow early development. Sudan grass is self-pollinated. Harvesting can be done with a row-independent maize chopper.

