

BOTANICAL NAME	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>Sorghum sudanense</i>	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	<i>Sorghum sudanense</i>	<i>Setaria italica</i>	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>
ENGLISH COMMON NAME	Sorghum-Sudan grass hybrid	Sorghum	Sudan grass	Foxtail millet	Proso millet, common millet, true millet
GERMAN COMMON NAME	Sorghum-Sudangras-Hybride	Mohrenhirse, Sorghumhirse, Futterhirse	Sudangras	Kolbenhirse	Rispenhirse
FAMILY	Poaceae (grasses)	Poaceae (grasses)	Poaceae (grasses)	Poaceae (grasses)	Poaceae (grasses)
ORIGIN	Africa	Africa	Africa	China	Asia
CHROMOSOME NUMBER	-	2n = 20	2n = 20	2n = 18	2n = 18
GROWING PERIOD	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
SEEDING RATE (KG/HA)	15–30	30–45	15–30	8–10	8–12
DISTANCE BETWEEN ROWS (CM)	25–30	30–75	10–30	30–50	30–50
<b>MORPHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES</b>					
HEIGHT	Up to 2.5 m	Up to 4.5 m	Up to 3 m	Up to 1.3 m	Up to 1.5 m
STALK	Medium stalk, diameter ~1.3-1.8 cm, intermediate tillering	Thick stalk, diameter up to ~2.5 cm, tillering nearly absent to abundant	Thin stalk, diameter ~1 cm, very abundant tillering	Thin stalk, diameter up to 1 cm	Thin stalk, diameter up to ~1 cm, hairy, intermediate tillering
LEAVES	Glabrous, 15-45 cm long by 2-5 cm wide	Glabrous, 30-80 cm long by 5-7 cm wide	Glabrous, 15-30 cm long by 1-3 cm wide	Glabrous, 15-45 cm long by 1.5-2.5 cm wide	Pilous, 10-30 cm long by 1-2.5 cm wide
LEAF SHAPE	Lanceolate	Lanceolate	Lanceolate	Linear-lanceolate	Linear-lanceolate
FLOWER COLOUR	Red, brown	Red, purple, brown	Brown, red, yellowish	Yellow, brown, orangey, purple	Brown, yellowish, reddish, purple
INFLORESCENCE	Panicle, 15-40 cm long	Very dense panicle up to 50 cm long	Loose panicle with thin spikelets	Thick spike-like panicle, 10-30 cm long	Compact, spike-like panicle 10-40 cm long
NUMBER OF SEEDS PER FRUIT	1	1	1	1	1
SEED COLOUR	Light brown, reddish, yellowish, dark brown	Light brown, whitish, red, dark brown	Multicoloured, dark brown, yellow	Yellowish, red, dark brown	Whitish, creamy, red, dark brown, yellowish
AVG. TGW (G)	20	25	15	2.8	3–8



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SOIL REQUIREMENTS	Grows on nearly all soils, prefers permeable loams	Grows on nearly all soils, prefers permeable loams	Prefers dry, warm sites; cool, inactive or waterlogged sites with high clay content are not recommended	Grows on nearly all soils, prefers permeable loams	Grows on nearly all soils, preferring lighter, permeable loams, sites that are too acidic or wet are not recommended
PH VALUE	5.5–8.0	5.0–8.5	5.5–7.5	5.5–7.0	5.5–7.0
TOLERANCE OF WATER-LOGGING	Low	Low to medium	Low	Low	Low
ADAPTATION TO HEAT AND DROUGHT	Very good	Good	Good	Medium to good	Good
VARIETIES	-	Intermediate level of breeding activity	Intermediate level of breeding activity	Intermediate level of breeding activity	Low breeding activity
CONTENT (RELATIVE TO DRY WEIGHT)	Variety SUSU: 5.8 MJ NEL 26% DM content 6% Protein 27.2% Crude fibre 69.7% Digestibility	Grains: 10.5% Protein 70% Carbohydrates 6.8% Dietary fibre 3.4% Fat	Variety PIPER: 5.6 MJ NEL 29.4% DM content 6.5% Protein 28.2% Crude fibre 68.2% Digestibility	Grains: 9-12% Protein 68% Carbohydrates 8% Dietary fibre	Grains: 10-16% Protein 70% Carbohydrates 2% Fat
TOLERANCE OF GRAZING	Low	-	Low	-	-
TOLERANCE OF ORGANIC FERTILISER	Low to medium	Low to medium	Very low	Low to medium	Low to medium
IMPORTANCE AND USE	<p>With respect to stem thickness and regrowth/tillering capacity → Sorghum occupies an intermediate position between Sudan grass and forage sorghum</p> <p>Hybrid character: → Sorghum is suitable for use in rotations geared towards feed or energy crops</p> <p>Low water requirements → The species is a good alternative to maize</p>	<p>Greening</p> <p>Important cereal species for human consumption</p> <p>Use as forage possible → Use for silage</p> <p>Due to its low capacity for regrowth, it can realistically only be cut once</p> <p>Forage sorghum: special form → Sweet sorghum; high sugar content in the stem</p>	<p>Used for biogas</p> <p>Hay and silage production</p> <p>High tillering capacity and high regrowth potential</p> <p>Can be cut multiple times</p> <p>Undesirable lignification after flowering → Adjust cutting date</p> <p>Rapid development after sowing → Especially suitable as a second/catch crop (also/especially as a component in mixtures)</p>	<p>In Germany, non-threshed infructescences are used as bird feed for pet birds (e.g. cockatiels, budgies) and small birds (such as finches and sparrows)</p> <p>Well-suited for cultivation on poor soils</p> <p>Differentiated based on the size of the panicle branches: → Maxima race Larger grains more loosely arranged → Moharia race Smaller, more compact panicles</p>	<p>Grain production</p> <p>Suitable for human consumption: gluten-free, low glycaemic index</p> <p>Primarily used as birdseed</p> <p>Seeds are readily consumed by the bobwhite quail, mourning dove, common pheasant, wild turkey, and songbirds</p> <p>Very well suited for cultivation on marginal sites</p>



Any questions? Please feel free to contact us!

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