



A Guide For Identifying Seedlings Of Big Bluestem,
Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, And Indiangrass

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What Conditions Must Be Met For These Warm Season Grasses To Germinate?



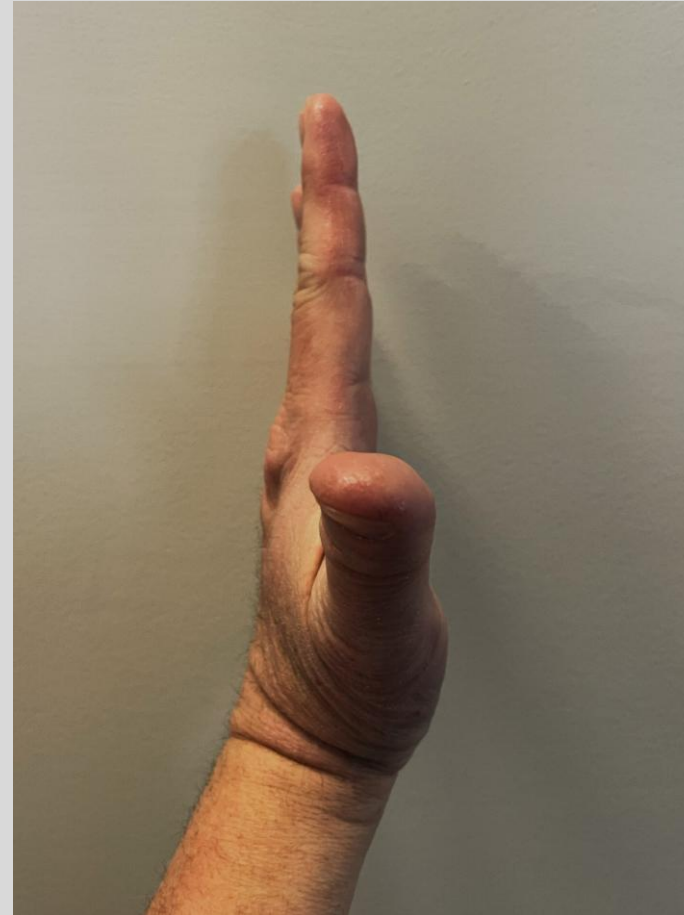
- Seeds have been in the soil for at least two weeks.
- Soil temperatures are at least 55 F at 3” depth.
- Adequate soil moisture to support germination.

When Will I Be Able To Recognize These Seedlings?



- Between mid-July and early September.
- Plants will need to be about three inches(3”) tall or taller.

Using Your Hand As A Model For Identifying Seedlings Of Four Native Grasses



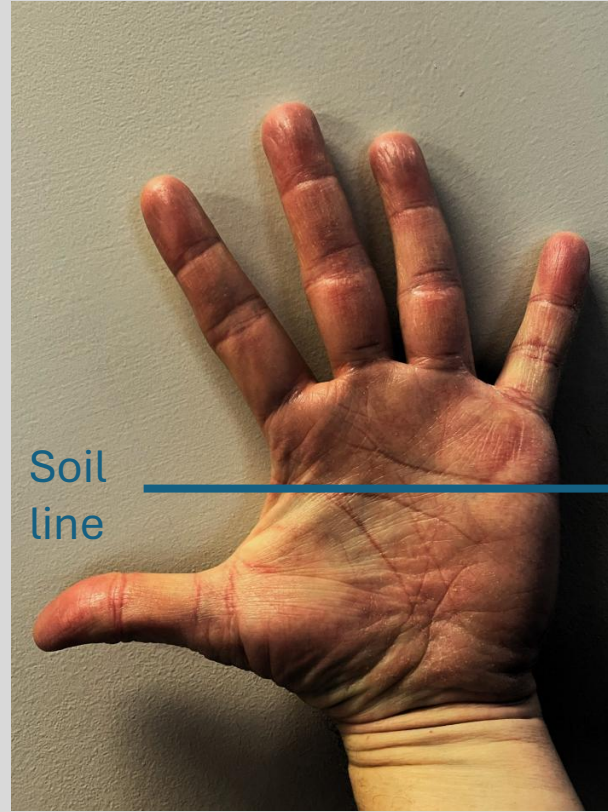
Tillers (stems) will be fanned out like the fingers on your hand when viewed from one angle.

All tillers of the same age will be in the same plane when viewed from a perpendicular angle.

Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem) And Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)



Andropogon gerardii tillers are pubescent (hairy).

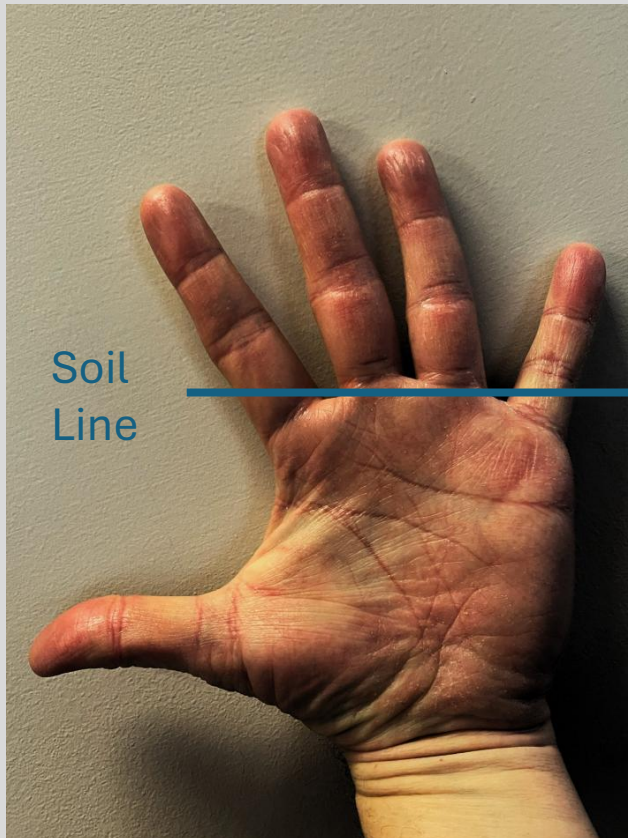


Tillers are **flat** like a business card and arise from a point at or on top of the soil surface.



Schizachyrium scoparium tillers have no pubescence (hairs).

Panicum virgatum (Switchgrass)



Tillers (stems) are **round** and the common point from which they arise is below the soil surface. Viewed in profile, tillers are fanned out. If a leaf is pulled, the tiller moves with it.

Sorghastrum nutans (Indiangrass)



Tillers (stems) are **round** and the common point from which they arise is below the soil surface. Viewed in profile, tillers are fanned out. If a leaf is pulled an extension of the leaf called a ligule pulls back from the stem.