

ECOLOGY ACTION  
INFORMATION SHEET

**SORGHUM VARIETIES**

VARIETY	USE	SOURCE	COMMENTS
Amber Cane	Sw	DD	8 feet tall
Apache Cane	Sw	SS	
Black Amber Cane	Sw	SESE	99 days, 6-8 feet tall
Black Kaffir	Gr	BG, DD	
Black Milo	Sw	SS	
Broomcorn	Br	BG	
Crookneck Mile	Gr	SPC	5 feet tall, large seed head
Dale	Gr, Sw	PSR, MFSS	115 days. 10-14 feet tall
Dwarf Grain	Gr	DD	3 feet tall
Golden Shallu	Gr	BG	
Gooseneck	Gr	DD	6 feet tall
Hung, Black-Seeded Broomcorn	Br	SESE, SPC	115 days, 8-12 feet tall
Hungarian Broomcorn	Br	DD	
Hungarian Red Broomcorn	Br	SS, SPC	
Iowa Red	Br	SPC	8 feet tall
Jawar	Gr	SS	12 feet tall
Lesotho	Gr	SESE	115 days, 7-12 feet tall
Mennonite	Sw, Gr	SESE	
Northern Sugar Cane	Sw	PSR	8-10 feet tall
Rio	Sw		Best producer of sugar
Rox Orange	Sw	Shum, SPC	
Santa Fe Red	Sw	NSS	
Tall Grain Japanese	Gr	KUSA (?)	
Tennessee Red	Br	SPC	8 feet tall, 24-inch broom
Texicoa	Gr	DD, KUSA (?), SS	3-4 feet, High yield (SS)
Theis	Sw	MFSS	130 days
Tohono O'odham	Sw	DD, NSS	7-8 feet tall
White Milo	Gr	BG	Can be popped, ground, cooked whole, for brewing beer. Exc for chickens

Br = Brooms

Gr = Grain

Sw = Sweetner

In the Common Ground Research Garden, sorghum shows considerable potential for both food and biomass (compost material). Our most recent testing seems to indicate that sorghum produces more biomass than corn, both above and below the ground; one source indicates significantly more root biomass from sorghum.

Sorghum residues (including stubble and roots) are high in sugar. When these decompose, the sugar favors the rapid multiplication of soil microorganisms which may compete with the following crop for nitrogen. This effect is relatively short-lived. Also, sorghum may seriously deplete the soil moisture to a considerable depth. (Crop Production in Dry Regions, Vol. 2, by I. Arnon, p. 108)

For maximum sugar content, harvest at the soft dough stage (not milk or hard dough). (Personal communication from Butch Tindell)

## SEED SOURCES

BG = Bountiful Gardens, 1726 South Main Street, Suite D, Willits, CA 95490

(707) 459 – 6410 [www.bountifulgardens.org](http://www.bountifulgardens.org) Free 72 page catalog on request.

DD = Deep Diversity, PO Box 15700, Santa Fe, NM 87506-5700

KUSA = KUSA, Box 761, Ojai, CA 93023

MFSS = Mississippi Foundation Seed Stocks, Box 9811, MS State, MS 39762

Phone #: (662) 325-2390 [Minimum order: 5-pounds, all orders in 5-pound increments only. Orders processed February 1 through June 15 ONLY.]

NSS = Native Seeds / SEARCH, 526 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705 Toll-free 866.622.5561

PSR = Peters Seed & Research, PO Box 1472, Myrtle Creek, OR 97457

SESE = Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, PO Box 170, Earlsyville, VA 22936

Shum = R. H. Shumway's, PO Box 1, Graniteville, SC 29029-0001

SPC = Sandhill Preservation Center, 1878 230<sup>th</sup> St., Calamus, IA 52729  
[Offers the greatest number of varieties]

SS = Synergy Seeds, Box 787, Somes Bar, CA 95568  
[Send SASE with inquiry]

Compiled by Ecology Action, 5978 Ridgewood Rd., Willits, CA 95490-9730