

## Haygrazer Variety Testing – West Central Texas

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A collaborative effort between County Extension Agents, the Extension Agronomy program at San Angelo, and on-farm cooperators was initiated in 2021 to test locally available “haygrazer” varieties. These include sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, three-way crosses (sorgo-sorghum-sudangrass), as well as straight forage sorghum hybrids and sudangrass varieties. As a group, these species and crosses are generally referred to as “haygrazer”, and are typically our best-adapted summer annual forage and hay options in West Central Texas. Seed options and costs vary widely among local sources, and there is not an objective source of information actually comparing the growth and performance of these varieties, especially in our environment.

Trials have been conducted in growers fields near Coleman (2021, 2022, 2023), Miles (2021), Millersview (2021), and Rowena (2023). Plots are planted with a 5-ft cone-drill on 7-inch row spacing, and all varieties are replicated four times in a randomized block design. Forage harvests occur by machine or hand clippings depending on the crop (as well as time and equipment logistics). Samples are dried at around 130°F and weighed to calculate forage yield per acre on a dry weight basis.

### **2023 Yield Summary (Harvest 1)**

Variety	Source	Coleman	Rowena	Combined Locations
		----- lb ac <sup>-1</sup> -----		
Cow Candy	Coleman Grain	<b>3771 a</b>	<b>2230 a-c</b>	<b>3007 a</b>
P849F	Pioneer	<b>3847 a</b>	<b>2017 a-d</b>	<b>2939 a</b>
MegaGreen	Jacoby's	<b>3375 ab</b>	<b>2461 a-c</b>	<b>2924 a</b>
Sugar Graze Ultra	Turner Seed	<b>3014 a-c</b>	<b>2788 a</b>	<b>2908 a</b>
P859F	Pioneer	2519 bc	<b>2903 a</b>	<b>2718 ab</b>
P877F	Pioneer	<b>2658 a-c</b>	<b>2658 ab</b>	<b>2664 a-c</b>
SugarTex III	Palmer's Seed	<b>2856 a-c</b>	<b>2271 a-c</b>	<b>2570 a-c</b>
Zacate	Turner Seed	<b>2983 a-c</b>	<b>2067 a-d</b>	<b>2532 a-c</b>
Cattle King	Coleman Grain	<b>3026 a-c</b>	<b>1901 a-d</b>	<b>2470 a-c</b>
P845F	Pioneer	2551 bc	<b>2174 a-d</b>	<b>2369 a-c</b>
Hegari	Turner Seed	<b>3216 ab</b>	1427 c-e	<b>2328 a-c</b>
Super Sugar DM	Helena	2532 bc	1643 b-e	2094 b-d
Sweeter'n Honey	Coleman Grain	2571 bc	1523 c-e	2053 b-d
Sugar Queen	Turner Seed	2542 bc	1485 c-e	2020 b-d
Sweet Bites	Helena	2366 bc	1379 c-e	1879 cd
Red Top Cane	Turner Seed	1909 c	1160 de	1541 d
Piper Sudangrass	Turner Seed	2411 bc	651 e	1538 d

\*Within columns, values with the same letter are statistically not different (p < 0.05)

## West Central Texas – Multi-Year Summary

*Coleman (2021, 2022, 2023), Miles (2021), Millersview (2021), and Rowena (2023)*

<b>Variety</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>3-yr</b>	<b>2-yr</b>	<b>2023</b>
		----- lb ac <sup>-1</sup> -----		
P877F	Pioneer	<b>3076*</b>	<b>2828</b>	<b>2664</b>
Cow Candy	Coleman Grain	<b>2929</b>	<b>2413</b>	<b>3007</b>
P845F	Pioneer	<b>2796</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>2369</b>
Super Sugar DM	Helena	<b>2689</b>	1930	2094
Cattle King	Coleman Grain	<b>2654</b>	1918	<b>2470</b>
Sweeter'n Honey	Coleman Grain	<b>2615</b>	1612	2053
Zacate	Turner Seed	2466	1944	<b>2532</b>
Sweet Bites	Helena	2264	1751	1879
Hegari	Turner Seed	2155	1816	<b>2328</b>
Red Top Cane	Turner Seed	1850	1432	1541
Piper Sudangrass	Turner Seed	1450	1235	1538
P849F	Pioneer		<b>2307</b>	<b>2939</b>
SugarTex III	Palmer's Seed		<b>2306</b>	<b>2570</b>
Sugar Queen	Turner Seed		2126	2020
MegaGreen	Jacoby's			<b>2924</b>
Sugar Graze Ultra	Turner Seed			<b>2908</b>
P859F	Pioneer			<b>2718</b>

\*Within columns, values with the same letter are statistically not different ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Varieties are sorted first by 3-year yield estimates, followed by 2-year and 1-year.

The figures below show yield at each location in 2023, assuming a 1000-lb round bale (which is a bit light). The bars enclosed in the red dashed-line box comprise the uppermost yield group and are not statistically different from each other. (Forage clipping data is highly variable.)

