Buffalograss is considered Special Concern in Canada.
It resembles Blue Grama grass, which is much more common on the Canadian prairies.
Male and female Buffalograss flowers occur on different individuals, while the opposite is true for Blue Grama.
Female Buffalograss plants have a protective bur-like cluster that contain the seeds.
Buffalograss is tolerant of dry conditions and increases with grazing pressure.
Buffalograss retains a large amount of protein and nutrients after dying from frost, making it an excellent winter forage crop.
Buffalograss is at its northern range limit in Canada and less than 1% of the total and historical population is found here.
Buffalograss prefers clay soils and can tolerate alkali conditions.
Its horizontal stems (used for asexual reproduction) can grow at a rate of 2.5 cm per day.
Buffalograss seeds may lie dormant for up to 35 years.
Conservation

- Coal mining, and the associated destruction of the topsoil, is potentially the largest threat, given the grass population’s proximity to ongoing mining operations.
- Loss or disruption of disturbances like grazing or fire and flooding by dams are also considered to be threats.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Buffalograss here.
- Continue or begin grazing in areas where Buffalograss exists.
- Control invasive plants such as Kentucky Blue Grass, Sweet Clover, or Leafy Spurge.

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