

## ‘Viva’ James’ galleta

*Pleuraphis jamesii* Torr.



‘Viva’ James’ galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*)

‘Viva’ James’ galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii* Torr.) was released in 1979 as a joint release between New Mexico State University’s Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center and the USDA-NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

### Description

‘Viva’ James’ galleta, a native, warm-season, perennial grass, is dull blue-green in color and cures to a light straw-yellow. This rhizomatous plant is erect with stems often curving upward from a horizontal base. The hairless stems are usually 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 cm) tall, and the joints are covered with long, soft hairs. The sheaths may feel rough and are slightly hairy around the leaf-blade junction. The stiff leaves are about 0.8 to 2 inches (2 to 5 cm) long, and 0.08 to 0.16 inches (2 to 4 mm) wide. The leaf edges roll inward, ending in an almost sharp, rigid point.

The flower heads (spikes) are often purplish at first and fade to almost white at maturity, and they are 1.2 to 3.9 inches (3 to 10 cm) long. The spikelets are 0.24 to 0.31 inches (6 to 8 mm) long with long hairs at the base. After the spikelets fall, the upper stem, or rachis, remains as a thin, zig-zag straw.

### Source

The ‘Viva’ James’ galleta seed was collected by the Soil Conservation Service in 1944 from a native stand near Newkirk, New Mexico.

### Conservation Uses

The abundance of galleta and its ability to produce considerable forage make it a very important species on many southwestern ranges. ‘Viva’ James’ galleta is useful for critical area soil stabilization and range revegetation in its natural range of adaptation.

‘Viva’ galleta is very drought-resistant and maintains itself very well on arid ranges, where average annual precipitation may be as low as seven inches.

### Area of Adaptation and Use

‘Viva’ galleta grows well on medium to heavy, moderately saline soils. It grows from rhizomes and seed mainly in the summer after sufficient rainfall. Its drought resistance allows it to do well even in areas with only 8 inches of annual precipitation. While it is green, its forage value is good for all classes of livestock and wildlife.

Galleta is widely distributed in Colorado (except in the central and north-central parts) from elevations of 3,500 to 7,500 feet (1,070 to 2,290 m). It is most commonly found in the northern two-thirds of New Mexico at elevations of 3,500 to 7,500 feet (1,070 to 2,290 m). It is also found in western Texas, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California, and Arizona.

### Ecological Considerations

‘Viva’ James’ galleta, when placed in mixes with other adapted species, serves a need for stabilization and revegetation of not only mine spoils, but other areas such as pipeline right-of-ways, highway right-of-ways, and other disturbed sites.

### Seed and Plant Production

‘Viva’ James’ galleta’s tough, woody rootstocks are its surest means of reproduction. However, plants are also easily established from seed. Good stands have been established in field trials with 2 to 6 lbs. per acre (2.2 to 6.7 kg/ha) of pure live seed.

If precipitation is less than 11 inches (28 cm) per year, supplemental water should be used during the first year of establishment. Mulching can also be helpful on disturbed, dry sites.

**Availability**

Foundation seed is produced by the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Foundation seed is available to certified growers through New Mexico State Seed Certification.

*For more information, contact:*  
Los Lunas Plant Materials Center  
1036 Miller Road

Los Lunas, NM 87031

Tele: 505-865-4684

FAX: 505-865-5163

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/nmpmc/>

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>



This is a joint release between New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Agricultural Science and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

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