

Material Safety Data Sheet

Section 1 – Product Identification

Material Identity: Switchgrass

Section 2 – Composition/Ingredients

Weight (%)	Component	CAS Registry No.
100	Switchgrass Straw	None

Section 3 – Hazards Identification

HMIS Hazard Ratings:

Health: 1 Flammability: 1 Chemical Reactivity: 0

NFPA Hazard Ratings:

Health: 1 Flammability: 1 Chemical Reactivity: 0

Section 4 – First Aid Measures

Ingestion: Not applicable under normal use.

Inhalation: Remove to fresh air. If persistent irritation, severe coughing, breathing difficulties occur, seek medical advice before returning to work where Switchgrass pellets/dust are present.

Eyes: Flush with water to remove debris/dust particles. If irritation occurs, seek medical attention.

Skin: If a rash or persistent irritation or dermatitis occur, seek medical advice before returning to work where Switchgrass pellets/dust are present.

Section 5 – Fire Fighting Measures

Flash Point: N.A. – Combustible solid

Flammable Limits:

LEL: Not available UEL: Not available

Extinguishing Media: Water, CO₂, sand

Unusual fire or explosion hazards: Dust is a strong to severe explosion hazard if a dust 'cloud' contacts an ignition source. Explosive limits in air: 40 mg/m³ (LEL).

Section 6 – Accidental Release Measures

Sweep or scoop and place in disposal container. May be disposed of as a nonhazardous waste.

Section 7 – Handling and Storage

Store in a cool, dry place with adequate ventilation. Keep away from ignition sources.

Section 8 – Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

Exposure Limits:

Particulates not otherwise classified; ACGIH TLV-TWA = 5 mg/m³

OSAH PEL – TWA = 15 mg/m³ (total dust) 5.0 mg/m³ (respirable fraction)

NOTE: Data are for wood dust.

Section 8 – Exposure Controls/Personal Protection (continued)

Use good ventilation – typically 10 air changes per hour.

Wear safety glasses with side shields.

Other protective equipment, such as gloves and approved dust respirators, may be needed depending on dust conditions.

Section 9 – Physical and Chemical Properties

Boiling Point N.A.

Vapor Pressure N.A.

Vapor Density N.A.

Solubility in Water Insoluble

Appearance and Odor Tan, slight straw odor

Bulk Density 40 lbs./ft³

Melting Point N.A.

Evaporation Rate N.A.

Section 10 – Stability and Reactivity

Stability: Stable

Incompatibility: May react with strong oxidizers

Hazardous Polymerization: Will not occur

Conditions to Avoid: Avoid continuous exposure of material to temperatures in excess of 400° F (204° C).

Section 11 – Toxicological Information

Carcinogenic: Wood dust is classified as a Class 1 human carcinogen. Lacking additional data, switchgrass dust should be regarded as a similar hazard.

Section 12 – Ecological Background

Switchgrass is a perennial prairie grass native to North America east of the Rocky Mountains. It is under cultivation for conservation purposes, seed propagation, forage, wildlife habitat, biomass energy, and other potential industrial uses.

Section 13 – Disposal Considerations

May be disposed of as nonhazardous waste if not contaminated.

Section 14 – Transportation Information

May be shipped normally as nonhazardous material.

Section 15 – Regulatory Information

None

