



Scientific name: *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Common name(s): Little Bluestem

Family: Poaceae (Grass)

Native: CO, widespread throughout North America

Habitat: Prairie, plains, woodland edges, slopes

Little Bluestem is an iconic warm season prairie native. While the bluish clumps of foliage are attractive through the summer, Little Bluestem really shines after the first frost, holding its russet color and sparkle long into the winter. This grass is a larval host for skippers and its seeds provide forage for birds. Plant in clumps, drifts or as a focal point. Cut back in mid-spring.

Plant type: Perennial warm season bunchgrass

Elevation: Native range to 9500'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3

Exposure: Full sun (tolerates light shade)

Soil: Adaptable; well-drained (prefers well-drained clay or rocky soil)

Moisture: Moderate, low, dry, xeric (prefers some moisture)

Flower color: Sparkly white seed plumes

Bloom time: Late summer; seed heads persist into winter

Mature size (height x width): 2-4' x 12-30"



Propagation: Sow seeds April 1 to mid summer in cells or in situ. Cover lightly. Seeds germinate in about 20 days, depending on the temperature.



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