

Andropogon gerardii

Big Bluestem



Plant type:	Perennial
Season of Interest:	July-Dec
Height: 4-6'	Spread: 2-3'
Water needs:	Low
Native Region:	CO, throughout US
Elevation:	3,400'-6,800'
Important to know:	One of 4 key species in tall grass prairies



Maintenance:	Low. Mow in spring.
Characteristics:	Warm season grass.

Ease of Propagation: Medium

Propagation: Store seeds dry at 40°. Then sow seeds at 75-80° (a germination blanket may be helpful to achieve the desired warmth but drop temps dramatically every night). Large temperature fluctuations from day to night help warm season grasses germinate. Big Bluestem has a low percentage of fertile seeds; sow sufficient quantity accordingly. I collected at least 5 ecotypes of seeds and established them in a meadow. Thereafter I collected many more fertile seeds. Spring planting of plants is best but fall planting may succeed if the plant has a substantial root system. This warm season grass will not grow over the fall and winter. It will begin active growth when temps warm in spring.

