



Schizachyrium scoparium

Little Bluestem



Little Bluestem gives a brilliant landscape performance. Tight, erect, spiky bluish-green stems and leaves transition to a sizzling fall display of oranges, reds, yellows and purplish-browns topped by fluffy seed heads that persist into winter.

Characteristics	
Height: 1½–4 feet	 <p>Photo credit: Joshua Mayer</p>
Spread: 1½–2 feet	
Bloom time: August-October	
Bloom color: Purplish-bronze	
Attributes	
Bunched, ornamental perennial grass	 <p>Photo credit: Patrick Alexander</p>
Slender, often folded, light blue or green leaves alternate on erect, red-brown or tan stems	
Purplish-bronze flowers appear in 3-inch long racemes on branched stems	
Bronze to rust fall color and fluffy, silvery-white seed heads persists through winter	
Attracts birds to its seeds, especially in winter; larval host for Cobweb, Crossline, Dusted, Indian, Leonard's, and Swarthy Skippers; provides wildlife cover	
Growing and Maintenance	
Soil requirements: Average, well-drained	Native Range
Light requirements: Sun	
Water requirements: Dry	
Readily reseeds	
Cut to ground in late winter to early spring	
Use as an accent or in borders, meadow gardens, or naturalized landscapes	One of the most widely distributed native grasses in North America
A dominant grass of the vast tallgrass prairie which once covered rich and fertile soils in parts of central North America	Native to prairies, fields, clearings, hills, limestone glades, roadsides, waste areas, and open woods
Developed by Black Swamp Conservancy	

References listed at www.blackswamp.org/factsheetreferences/

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