

November 2007

HG/Native Plants/2007-01pr

Little Bluestem in the Landscape

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Schizachyrium scoparium

Little Bluestem



Description: Perennial, warm season bunchgrass; blue-green foliage turning bronze in the fall. Flowers in mid to late summer; heads are tufted racemes. Plants can reach heights of up to 4 feet. This plant can be found naturally in desert surroundings, along waterways, and in rock crevices. This is a long-living plant that can be used ornamentally as a specimen, in a rock garden, or anywhere soil stabilization is desired. In winter, the seeds are favored by small birds.

Cultural Requirements:

- Native habitat native all over the U.S. to prairies, dry hills, woodlands
- Soil well drained, low fertility, pH 5.0-8.4
- Cold Tolerance hardy to -38°F
- Drought Tolerance high
- Salt Tolerance not tolerant
- Sun/Shade Preference full sun
- Transplanting easy
- Propagation seed or division
- Maintenance crop to no less than 8 inches in early fall or late spring
- Pest Problems no serious pest problems

Landscape Value:

- Use in the Landscape specimen, soil stabilization, wildlife protection and food source
- Foliage showy, attractive fall color
- Inflorescence fine-textured

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
• Color							
• Fruit (seedheads)	feathery appearance when mature						
• Form	upright, tight, vertical lines						
• Texture	fine to medium						
• Ultimate Size	3 to 4 feet						
• Rate of Growth	Moderate; full height in 2 years						
• Plant Community	parkland, pinyon-juniper, cool-desert shrub						
• Availability	"Utah's Choice" selection						
• Cultivars	'Blaze': compact; intense pink-orange fall color; 'The Blues': intense blue leaf color						

More Photos



Photo credits: Graham Hunter

References

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This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University.