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# Little Bluestem in the Landscape

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## 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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