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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

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- ‘Blaze’: compact; intense pink-orange fall color; ‘The Blues’: intense blue leaf color

More Photos

Photo credits: Graham Hunter

References


USDA Plants Database. 2007. URL: http://plants.usda.gov.

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