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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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