

Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium



Little Bluestem is a native, warm season, perennial mid grass with a dense root system that may reach 5 to 8 feet in depth. This bunch grass spreads by seed, tillers and short underground rootstocks. Growth begins in early April with seed stalks appearing from late August to October. Little bluestem can be identified by its flat, bluish colored basal shoots and its leaf blades which tend to fold. Mature plants have a reddish cast after frost.

This native grass provides nutritious grazing during the growing season and has been used for hay since the first days of settlement. It produces from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 tons of forage per acre and makes good winter grazing when supplemented with protein and minerals.

Little bluestem is native in all states except California, Washington, Oregon and Nevada. It is one of the most widely distributed perennial grasses in America and grows well on deep, shallow, sandy, fine textured, and rocky soil. It is used in low maintenance mixtures with other lower growing natives for recreational areas, golf courses, roadsides, and wildlife habitat. It turns a brilliant russet-red color in fall through winter making it a great choice for landscaping or ornamental purposes.

Height Range (inches): 12 - 36

Seeding Rate: Broadcast: 1 PLS Lb. / 3,000 sq ft | Drilled: 8 PLS Lbs. / Ac

Seeds Per Pound: 260,000

Taxonomy

Species: scoparium

Genus: Schizachyrium

Family: Poaceae

Order: Cyperales

Subclass: Commelinidae

Class: Liliopsida

Division: Magnoliophyta

Subkingdom: Tracheobionta

Kingdom: Plantae



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