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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
Transplanting	not tolerant
Propagation	full sun
Maintenance	easy
Best Problems	seed or division
Sun/Shade Preference	crop to no less than 8 inches in early fall or late spring
	no serious pest problems

Landscape Value:

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

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
• Color							
Fruit (seedheads)							
Form							
Texture							
Ultimate Size							
Rate of Growth							
Plant Community							
Availability							
Cultivars							

feathery appearance when mature

upright, tight, vertical lines

fine to medium

3 to 4 feet

Moderate; full height in 2 years

parkland, pinyon-juniper, cool-desert shrub

"Utah's Choice" selection

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

More Photos



Photo credits: Graham Hunter

References

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