



***Andropogon scoparius* – Little Bluestem**

COMMON NAME: Little Bluestem

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Andropogon scoparius*, also *Schizachyrium scoparium*

The names come from Greek meaning “man” and “beard” in reference to the hairy seeds. *Scoparius* means broom-like.

FLOWER COLOR: Little bluestem is a grass that adds color in the fall when it turns pinkish. Its silky seeds catch in the sunlight.

BLOOMING PERIOD: August with seeds that are showy from September into November.

SIZE: 2 to 3 ½ feet

BEHAVIOR: Dense and tufted perennial grass that spreads to form clumps of upright stems.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Little bluestem has a wide tolerance of soil types from mesic to dry (sand or gravel). While it persists in light shade, it grows best in lots of sun.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Because of its size little bluestem is best suited for the background of small prairie gardens or in the foreground with taller plantings. It is most showy in late summer and fall, a time when the flowering season is nearly over.

RANGE: Occurs in almost all of the US.

SUGGESTED CARE: Vigorous seedlings or older plants can be divided. New plants should be watered during dry periods the first year.

COMPANION PLANTS: It is found on rocky hillsides with leadplant, silky aster, purple prairie clover, yellow coneflower and needle grass. On mesic prairie sites it is with big bluestem, rattlesnake master and Indian grass. On sandy, oak barrens it is found with butterfly weed, azure aster, rough blazing star, wild lupine, downy phlox, showy goldenrod and spiderwort.