



## ***Sporobolis heterolepis* – Prairie Dropseed**

COMMON NAME: Prairie Dropseed

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *sporobolis heterolepis* – The name comes from a Greek word for seeds that are cast forth and the unequal bracts under the florets.

FLOWER COLOR: Inconspicuous yellow-green

BLOOMING PERIOD: August – September

SIZE: Forms mounds up to 18 inches high and two feet wide.

BEHAVIOR: This is a long-lived perennial that is easily grown from seed in flats. After the second year, plants can be divided to increase the number of plants. After blooming, the seeds form and then drop to the ground around the plant. Most will be eaten by birds.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Once established it will tolerate a wide range of soil types from moist to dry. It does not tolerate shade.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This is a plant with a low mounding dwarf habit, extreme tolerance to drought, and graceful arching foliage that seems to blend effortlessly into every facet of the landscape. Leaf blades are a deep emerald green color during the growing season with delicate, wispy, and slightly fragrant flower panicles that appear in fall. Autumn foliage then turns to a nice golden orange color fading to creamy white in winter. Grow in sunny, well drained area for best results.

RANGE: It is native in much of the US and Canada, but most widespread in the Midwest. In Wisconsin it is mostly found in the southern and western parts of the state.

SUGGESTED CARE: New plants should be watered occasionally during their first year, but seldom need attention after that.

COMPANION PLANTS: Nodding wild onion, lead plant, big and little bluestem, shooting star, rattlesnake master, flowering spurge, rough blazing star, white and purple prairie clover, prairie phlox, yellow coneflower, compass plant, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod. On dry prairies, look for it with thimbleweed, silky aster, sideoats grama, western sunflower, and Dyer's weed.