

**Common Name:**

Little Bluestem,
Beardgrass

Plant Type:

Perennial

Requirements:

Full Sun

Height: 2-3 ft**Bloom Time:**

June-October

Hardiness**Zones:**

3-9

Schizachyrium scoparium

Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem) is an herbaceous perennial in the grass (Poaceae) family. It is one of the most widely distributed ornamental grasses in the continental United States, tolerating a wide variety of soil fertility and moisture conditions. Naturally found in prairie habitats, it does best in average to medium moisture in well-drained soil and full sun. Little bluestem is drought-tolerant once established.

Little Bluestem forms densely mounded clumps 2-3 feet tall and wide. It is valued for its attractive blue-green foliage in the summer, which turns to shades of purple, copper, and crimson during the fall and winter. Little Bluestem spreads mainly by seed rather than by rhizome. It does not typically become a nuisance in the garden.

Little Bluestem has high ecological value, with the foliage serving as a larval host for many species of Skipper butterflies, as well as providing food for a variety of other insects such as grasshoppers, walking sticks, leaf-mining beetles, and leaf hoppers. The seeds are eaten by songbirds. Little Bluestem also provides necessary habitat for overwintering insects at the base of the plant.

References:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/schizachyrium-scoparium/>

https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg_scsc.pdf