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Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

Light: Full Sun, Partial Sun

Soil: Clay-Loam, Sand

Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

Benefits: Birds, Host Plant, Deer Resistant

Height: 2' to 3'

Blooms: Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct

Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Color: Green, Blue, Red

Spacing: 1'

Root: Fibrous

One of the best ornamental native grasses, Little Bluestem has an upright aspect and very attractive blue-green foliage that forms a great matrix around the taller flowering plants in the native garden, such as Purple Coneflower. In some areas it reseeds readily and can be aggressive, but in the Keweenaw it seems better behaved. It prefers full sun and insists on well-drained soil. Planted en masse, Little Bluestem is especially lovely in the fall, when its burgundy-red leaves are topped with pale, cream-colored seed heads that wave in the breeze.