Little Bluestem Grass, Blue Paradise

Schizachyrium scoparium 'Blue Paradise'



Little Bluestem Grass, Blue Paradise
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Group/Class: Prairie Winds Collection

Description:

This sturdy selection forms a towering, columnar clump of striking silver-blue stems; airy, plum colored plumes appear in late summer; deep wine purple fall color; perfect as a landscape accent, or along borders

Ornamental Features

Little Bluestem Grass, Blue Paradise features airy plumes of plum purple flowers rising above the foliage from late summer to late fall. Its attractive grassy leaves are bluish-green in color with hints of silvery blue. As an added bonus, the foliage turns gorgeous shades of burgundy and plum purple in the fall. The brown seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from late summer to mid fall. The silvery blue stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Little Bluestem Grass, Blue Paradise is an herbaceous perennial grass with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Little Bluestem Grass, Blue Paradise is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Little Bluestem Grass, Blue Paradise will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.