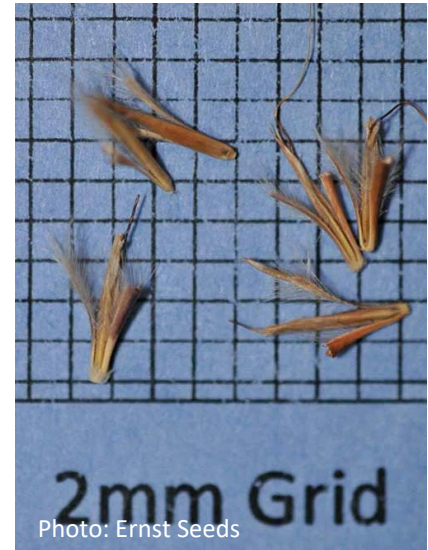


# Little Bluestem – *Schizachyrium scoparium*





# Little Bluestem – *Schizachyrium scoparium*

## Habitat Notes:

Open forests, woodlands, barrens, outcrops, riverside prairie, dry clearings, fields, meadows, roadsides, on a variety substrates and soils.

## Species Identification:

- Height 1-6 feet
- Sheaths usually glabrous, keeled, sometimes glaucous; ligules 0.5-2mm, collars neither elongate nor narrowed.
- Blades 9-45 cm x 1.5-9mm, flat, usually glabrous, occasionally pubescent.
- Rames 2-8cm, 6-13 spikelets, internodes 3-7mm, acruate at maturity, ciliate on at least the distal half.
- Lemma unawned or awned, with awns to 4mm.

## Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun to part sun (6 hours of sun at least)
- Clay soil, loam, silt, shallow rocky
- Good drainage, moist, occasionally dry

## Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: One of the best grasses for nesting habitat. Seeds are consumed by small mammals and birds.
- Dusky Skipper butterfly caterpillars overwinter in the tube tents
- Great for erosion control.
- Good forage value for cattle and horses.

## Growing Protocol:

- Seed requires no stratification (A)

## Collection Information:

- Shattering pods. Seeds need to be collected prior to dispersal.
- Either shake into a bag or cut the stem and collect the entire stalk before seeds are dispersed.
- Grasping the base of the inflorescence and pulling up the stalk can be a good way to collect seeds without having to cut much of the plant.
- Plant will be a bronze/reddish color when seeds are ready for harvest.
- Fall to early winter is best for collection.

## Pests & Disease:

- No significant problems