

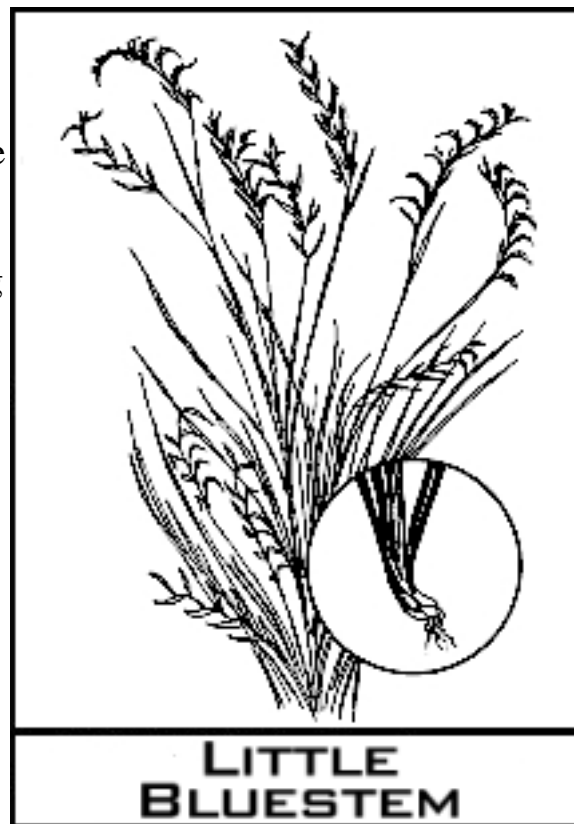


Little Bluestem

LITTLE BLUESTEM is a very common native grass found in almost all states of the United States. A smaller grass than Big Bluestem, it is slightly less palatable, but more drought resistant. A bunch-forming grass, **Little Bluestem** has a dense root system which enables it to grow on even the poorest and roughest ground. The stem and growth from previous years remain standing where it weathers to create a mulch. Growing best on medium or dry soils, new shoots are identifiable in early April and maturity is reached by late August to October. **Little Bluestem** is highly desirable for grazing and haying.

FACTS ABOUT LITTLE BLUESTEM:

- **Little Bluestem is highly drought resistant.**
- **Areas planted in Little Bluestem provide excellent wildlife habitat, which is maintained on into the winter season.**
- **Little Bluestem is moderately shade tolerant**
- **Little Bluestem is an attractive grass, with rich green summer foliage turning to a rusty brown in the fall.**
- **Little Bluestem is often mixed with other native grasses for seeding critical areas such as road embankments where re-establishment of vegetation is important.**



VARIETIES:

Native Little Bluestem is a valuable summer forage grass in drier areas because of its efficient use of whatever moisture is available. Once established, **Little Bluestem** requires very little maintenance. Whenever grazing is properly managed, plantings of native **Little Bluestem** adapt well and form high quality pastures.

Pastura is a true-green, vigorous-growing variety of **Little Bluestem** that is resistant to climatic extremes. Developed from strains found in New Mexico at high elevations with low rainfall, Pastura is found to be well adapted for similar such sites in eastern Colorado, central and eastern New Mexico and possibly into western Texas and Oklahoma. It is well suited for range plantings on light-textured soils.

Cimarron was developed after the combining of several strains of native **Little Bluestems** from Southwest Kansas. Well suited for drier climates and lighter soils, Cimarron is planted in southern Kansas, across Oklahoma and into Texas with strong, highly productive stands resulting.

Blaze was developed initially as an ornamental grass. Turning a brilliant red in the fall after the first frost, Blaze **Little Bluestem** catches the eye of many who are interested in colorful landscaping. Blaze retains the good qualities of **Little Bluestem** : good forage and well adapted to most locations. Several states are now using Blaze **Little Bluestem** for roadway seeding after new construction is complete.

Camper is along-lived perennial grass, producing maximum vegetative growth in midsummer. It is recommended primarily in mixtures with other warm-season prairie grasses for range, non-irrigated pastures, and roadside plantings.

Aldous was first developed as a forage crop. It is now considered superior to native **Little Bluestem**. Using selections from plantings in Eastern Kansas, Aldous **Little Bluestem** was shown to grow considerably taller, providing excellent wildlife habitat as well as highly palatable forage.

ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT

Soil preparation, planting and seed selection is important with all warm-season grasses. When **Little Bluestem** is continually and closely grazed during the growing season, it will be killed out by less productive, less desirable plants. Follow the same procedures as with all warm-season grasses:

(1) Identify your need. (2) Have your soil tested for deficiencies. (3) Talk to an expert, such as our personnel at SHARP BROS. SEED CO. (4) Buy high quality seed such as BUFFALO BRAND. (5) Prepare your soil, managing properly. (6) Enjoy the results.

With proper management, Little Bluestem will grow and thrive for many years with little or no additional maintenance.



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