Shining Star™ Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium 'Shining Star'

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 30 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Little Bluestem

Description:

Eye-catching green and creamy white variegated foliage becomes touched with pink in cooler temperatures; foliage matures to burgundy and green in the Autumn months; burgundy-purple plumes rise high above for added interest



Shining Star Bluestem foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Shining Star Bluestem in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Shining Star Bluestem is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The antique red seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from early fall to late winter. Its attractive grassy leaves are green in color with showy creamy white variegation and tinges of pink. As an added bonus, the foliage turns gorgeous shades of burgundy and green in the fall. It has masses of beautiful plumes of burgundy flowers with purple overtones rising above the foliage in late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The brick red stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Shining Star Bluestem is an herbaceous perennial grass with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

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.

Shining Star Bluestem is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Shining Star Bluestem will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 30 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. 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.