Lord Snowden's Big Blue Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii 'Lord Snowden's Big Blue'



Lord Snowden's Big Blue Bluestem in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Big Bluestem, Turkey Foot

Description:

This extraordinary selection of native prairie grass will reach five to six feet tall, great for adding height and texture to garden beds or mass planting; blue-purple foliage turn deep red-purple in the fall; late summer flower plumes rise above foliage

Ornamental Features

Lord Snowden's Big Blue Bluestem is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The coppery-bronze seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from late summer to early fall. Its attractive grassy leaves are silvery blue in color with showy lavender variegation. As an added bonus, the foliage turns gorgeous shades of dark red and lavender in the fall. The grayish green stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Lord Snowden's Big Blue 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 is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Lord Snowden's Big Blue Bluestem is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Lord Snowden's Big Blue Bluestem will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. 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 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 an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. 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.