Little Bluestem  
**Schizachyrium scoparium**

2-4’ x 1.5-2’, finely textured, clumping, upright columns of grass. Long-lived.

CT native, found in fields, prairies, rocky ridges, sandy slopes, open woods, and roadsides.

Slender, soft, flat, linear 1/4”-wide leaves, with a tinge of blue at the base. Light green as they emerge late in spring, then turning a darker blue-green in summer. In autumn, a sparkling fiery apricot and maroon.

Purplish-bronze flowers in 3”-long racemes on branched stems rise about the foliage in August.

Clusters of showy fluffy silver-white seeds, attractive into winter.

Winter foliage color is a soft tawny brown.
Little Bluestem is an asset to the winter garden (and wildlife habitat), as it retains its columnar form through wind, snow, and ice.

Sun; moist to seasonally dry, well-drained soil.
With its deep root system, it tolerates a wide range of soil, except for poorly drained, rich, or extremely acidic soils. Drought tolerant once established.
Tolerates heat, humidity, shallow-rocky soils, black walnuts, air pollution, and low nutrient levels in soil.
Since growth begins late spring, leave dried stems in place until April. Tolerates mowing until July 1st.

An excellent grass for three seasons: summer, fall, winter.
Exceptional in masses or loosely scattered clumps. Use in borders, meadows, rain gardens.
Will naturalize without being overly aggressive, useful in curtailing the spread of invasive plants.
Good choice for sun-baked areas.

Excellent for erosion control.
Streamside buffers.

Attracts butterflies and skippers.
Larval host for several skippers.
Field Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Slate-Colored Juncos and other small songbirds eat the seeds, especially during the winter.
Provides nesting materials/structure for Native Bees.

Deer resistant.

Photos 1, 3, 4: North Creek Nurseries, northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Schizachyrium-scoparium-
Photo 5: Tom Potterfield, flickr.com/photos/tgpotterfield/16088165695/sizes/l/
Photo 6: USDA NRCS, plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ndpmc/photo.html