

Big Bluestem Grass



A native grass selected for its stature and beautiful seasonal foliage display, this big bluestem is sure to make a powerful statement in fall as a stunning backdrop in a border or massed in a prairie garden.



Andropogon gerardii

- **Use:** Big Bluestem is a clump forming warm season native perennial grass. The lower stems are a purplish or bluish color and the leaves are 1/2 inch wide and up to 20 inches long. Big Bluestem is a major component of the tallgrass prairie.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun; Easy to grow in any soil except poorly drained.
- **Growth:** Reaches 8' tall and 2 to 2½ ft. wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-9, Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Its foliage draws attention as it changes from green to blue-green and silvery blue in the summer, to red, orange and purple in the fall.
- **Flower:** Flowering stems rise in late summer above the foliage clump bearing purplish 3-parted, finger-like flower clusters (to 4" long) purportedly resembling turkey feet (hence the additional common name of turkeyfoot grass for this species). Flowering stems bring total height of this grass to 4-8' tall (typically at the taller end in moist soils and the shorter end in dry soils). Big Bluestem provides shelter and food for songbirds.