

# Blackhawks 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* 'Blackhawks'

- **Use:** The native good looks and adaptability of Big Bluestem get an intense infusion of color with 'Blackhawks'. Dubbed the "monarch of the prairie", this native grass was once the dominant component of the American tallgrass prairie. It adapts easily to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions as long as full sun is provided. This long-lived grass has a variety of uses including screening, naturalizing, restoring prairies, and nesting materials for birds and mammals.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun; Easy to grow in any soil except poorly drained.
- **Growth:** Reaches 1.5'-2' tall and (4 to 5 ft.+ tall in flower), 2 to 2½ ft. wide.
- **Hardiness: Zone** 4-9, Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Dark green foliage emerges early in the season. By mid- to late summer, leaf tips and nodes turn purple, and burgundy red inflorescences emerge. As nights cool, the entire plant intensifies to a dark, rich purple that's almost black.
- **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).