

Smoke Signal Little Bluestem



Native warm-season grasses such as little bluestem are essential larval plant food for several species of skippers as well as prairie walkingsticks, leafhoppers, and grasshoppers. The habitat provided by having such a rich diversity of insect

life supports birds and other larger invertebrates. Bison, cattle, and other even-toed ungulates consume the foliage. *S. scoparium* can be used in restoration projects, prairies, borders, cottage gardens, and looks best in a group or mass.



Schizachyrium scoparium 'Smoke Signal' PP27433

- **Use:** A great choice if you are looking to restore an eroded site, or for a plant that will grow in hot, dry areas where other plants have a hard time surviving. A beautifully refined habit and puts forth a strong show of color in late summer and fall. A warm season grass that does well in poor, dry soils. Also provides winter interest before cutting back in early spring to make way for new growth. Attracts butterflies, host plant for many skippers. Provides nest sites, cover and food for birds.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers full sun and well drained soil with minimal water applications.
- **Growth:** Grows to 3-4' tall and 1-2' wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zones 3-9, Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; The glaucous blue-green foliage begins to take on scarlet red tones in late summer, turning a deeper red-purple through the fall.
- **Flower:** Tiny, tan seed heads appear in early fall on the top half of the stems.

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