

Andropogon gerardii

Big Bluestem

Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance

Prefers moist soil. Mesic prairie species that survives in wet prairies and fens. Species is not tolerant of flooding, but is drought tolerant.

Wildlife Value

Provides a food source for Delaware skipper and forage for deer and livestock. Also provides cover for wildlife.

Application/Zone

Used to stabilize soil and slow surface runoff. Used for upland slope buffer stabilization.

Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance

- Propagation is easy by seed. Fall planted seed germinates in April.
- If not fall planted, plant in late April to June.
- In mixed grass plantings for tall grass, use up to 75% Big Bluestem along with Indian Grass on dry to mesic sites.
- Grass seed should not be more than 40% of total prairie mix by weight.

Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii

Mature Height

3-9 feet

Plant Type

Perennial grass

Indicator Status

Facultative (-)

pH

Wide range

Nutrient Load Tolerance

Low

Salt Tolerance

Low

Siltation Tolerance

Low

Flowering Color and Time

Bronze to steely gray-blue

July to September

Light Preference

Full sun

Seeding Rate

2 lbs/acre

