Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem

*Schizachyrium scoparium* (Michx.) Nash

Source
Seed was collected from 16 native stands of little bluestem (as designated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division) within the southern half of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula.

Conservation Uses
Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem is useful as a component in the restoration and diversification of native habitats, particularly in Southern Michigan, its source of origin. Michigan NRCS technical specialists have determined that Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem is useful or potentially useful with these Conservation Practice Standards:

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647)
- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
- Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Area of Adaptation and Use
This species is found in dry open areas throughout much of the United States and is a major component of tall and mixed grass prairies.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings
Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem can be established by seed. Little bluestem seeds have fluffy appendages that make the seed difficult to plant using a standard grain drill. A grain drill with a fluffy seed box is recommended for mechanical planting. Seed can be broadcast and cultipacked as well. Seed rate for little bluestem is 2 to 5 lbs/a PLS. Increase seeding rate by 10% if broadcast seeding methods are used. Care should be taken to limit seeding depth to no more than ¼ inch in most soils and to ensure adequate seed-to-soil contact. Weed control during establishment is critical. Mowing
and use of registered herbicides will aid in weed control. Always read and follow herbicide label directions.

**Ecological Considerations**
No insect or disease problems have been observed on Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem.

**Availability**
Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem, as well as other Rose Lake PMC releases, is available from commercial suppliers. Rose Lake PMC does not sell releases to the general public, although small quantities of seed are available to commercial seed or nursery growers for increase purposes.

For more information, contact:
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-641-6300
Fax: 855-701-4363

**Seed and Plant Production**
Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem produces seed annually. Seed can be harvested mechanically with a combine or brush stripper. Timing is critical as mature seed can fall off of the plant. Seed cleaning can be done using a fanning mill. Using a debearder to remove the fluffy appendages will aid in seed cleaning and handling.

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