

Blue Heaven™

Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'MinnBlueA' Blue Heaven™ PP17310

Blue Heaven™ is a new native ornamental grass that is unique in several characteristics. It has a taller, more upright form than is typical of little bluestem. Blue Heaven™ has dark blue to burgundy foliage during the summer, turning purple, violet and finally red in the fall. The summer and fall color is beautiful on this columnar medium height grass. Mature height is 48", width 25-30". Flowers form in August and September, beautiful fall color is a highlight in September and October with interest extending into the winter.

ORIGIN

Blue Heaven™ was selected from a seedling population grown at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, MN. The parents of Blue Heaven™ came from Benton County in central Minnesota, USDA Hardiness Zone 3b (average annual minimum winter temperatures -30 to -35° F).

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Little bluestem prefers drier, well drained sites. Sandy soil is a good site for little bluestem, although it will tolerate heavy soil. Full sun is ideal, for little bluestem. In shade or high nutrient wet soils, little bluestem will likely fall over and decline. No additional fertilizer is necessary in growing little bluestem. Water plants well the first month after planting, then allow them to dry out between waterings, after the first year, you should not need to water Blue Heaven™.

Blue Heaven™ can be planted in the fall or spring. Fall plantings do best if allowed plants have 1 month to establish roots before daily freezing weather sets in, for the north this usually means planting in September. Spring planting can occur anytime the soil can be worked, usually in late April or early May.

LIFE CYCLE

Blue Heaven™ will begin growing in late May and the summer foliage is light blue in color. In late July and early August taller flower stems will appear, also blue in color. In late August the plants will begin to turn a dark burgundy color as small white airy flowers appear along the stems. During September and October the foliage is dark burgundy fading to red and pink as the fall continues. The plants slowly turn a warm beige and remain upright during the winter unless a heavy, wet snow comes early. In early spring, March or April, cut back the previous years growth to ground level, allowing light to penetrate the crown, which will help new foliage to quickly appear.

WHERE TO BUY Blue Heaven™

Several wholesale nurseries are growing and propagating Blue Heaven™.

Bailey's Nursery in St. Paul, baileynurseries.com

Greenleaf Nursery Co. greenleafnursery.com

Steve Schmidt Nursery, steveschmidtnursery.com
Glacial Stone Nursery, glacialstone.com
Bluebird Nursery, bluebirdnursery.com
Hoffman Nursery, hoffmannursery.com
Bluemel Nursery, .kurtbluemel.com

Retail Nurseries and Garden Centers will have Blue Heaven™ for sale in the spring of 2007.

LICENSE AND PROPAGATION

Blue Heaven™ was patented in April 2005. It is illegal to propagate and sell Blue Heaven™ without a license from the University of Minnesota. Contact Jeff Carpenter at carpe012@umn.edu, or phone 612-624-6426 for license information.

Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'MinnBlueA' Blue Heaven™ PP17310

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mary Meyer, Professor, University of Minnesota, meyer023@umn.edu
952-443-1447.

