

# Big Bluestem

Big Bluestem is a native prairie grass that grows over 6' tall, with slender, burgundy florets. It is a beneficial plant for pollinators, beneficial insects, and birds in a prairie ecosystem. It grows in full sun to part shade, and tolerates dry soil.

Type: Perennial

Height: 2m (6')

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Difficulty: Easy



## Growing

Cold stratification is the process of breaking seed dormancy through chilling. To artificially cold stratify seeds, place them on a damp paper towel in a sealed bag in the refrigerator for 4-6 weeks before sowing directly outside or starting indoors. To provide natural stratification, plant seeds outside in the fall.

Sow seeds shallowly at only 3mm (1/8") deep. Seeds should sprout in 1-2 weeks. Keep seedlings moist but not soaking wet. Transplant outside after a hardening off period. Space plants at 30-60 cm (12-24") apart.

## Saving

Seeds can be harvested in fall when seed heads turn brown, dry, and begin to fall apart. Strip seeds from the stems by hand, placing them in a paper bag to dry for a month. Then, put the seeds into a dated and labelled envelope and return to Brock!