

Coming Attraction:

Pinkles®

Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardi*

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Features

- Grows well in diverse soils and moisture levels.
- Grows 5 to 7 feet tall
- Stout stems
- Purple and pink foliage during the growing season
- Flowers are light tan and a good contrast to foliage colors
- Frost turns tops uniform light tan



History

Big Bluestem is the strongest plant among the four main grass plants of the prairie corridor. In areas of good soil, native Big Bluestem can grow 12 feet or more. As a landscape plant, the 5 to 7 feet height of Pinkles® works well. Pinkles® can be cut off near ground level any time after frost if desired or left standing all winter but tops should be removed before soil warm up in spring. Roots also die in winter. Plant top and root growth develop rapidly from the crown with spring soil warm up. Then, foliage show begins but flower show waits for later in summer. Foliage display of Pinkles® is great all season with few diseases or pests causing problems other than when exposed to grazing animals.