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Andropogon scoparius

[Synonyms : *Andropogon flexilis*, *Andropogon halei*, *Andropogon preamaturus*, *Andropogon preamaturus* forma. *hirtavaginat*, *Andropogon purpurascens*, *Andropogon scoparius* subvar. *caesia*, *Andropogon scoparius* subvar. *flexilis*, *Andropogon scoparius* var. *frequens*, *Andropogon scoparius* var. *genuinus*, *Andropogon scoparius* var. *genuinus* forma. *calvescens*, *Andropogon scoparius* var. *glaucescens*, *Andropogon scoparius* var. *polycladus*, *Andropogon scoparius* var. *septentrionalis*, *Andropogon scoparius* subvar. *serpentinus*, *Andropogon scoparius* subvar. *simplicior*, *Andropogon scoparius* var. *villosissimus*, *Pollinia scoparia*, *Schizachyrium acuminatum*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Schizachyrium villosissimum*, *Sorghum scoparium*]

LITTLE BLUE STEM is a perennial grass. Native to central North America it has grass-like leaves that often turn purple to reddish-brown in Autumn.

It is also known as Blue stem, Broom beard grass, Broom grass, Broom sedge, Bunchgrass, Little blue grass, Little false bluestem, Popotillo colorado, Poverty grass, Prairie beardgrass, Prairie grass, Purple wood grass, Small feathergrass, and Wire grass.

Scoparius is derived from Latin *scoparum* (besom, broom) meaning 'broom-like'.

The seeds are enjoyed by game birds.

Not only has little blue stem been valued for livestock and cultivated as pasture and hay but it has also been grown on inland sand dunes to counter erosion.

The long stems have been used in dried flower arrangements. Little bluestem has also been adopted as the State 'grass' for Nebraska in the United States.