

LITTLE BLUESTEM SCAVENGER HUNT

This is a **research** scavenger hunt for information about Little Bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). You will use the following sources to search for-specific facts: (1) print sources (books and other publications); (2) electronic sources (Internet); (3) knowledgeable people; and (4) your own observations in natural settings.

Print the questions below and record both your answer and the source where you found the answer for each question. For **print and electronic** sources, be sure you include a complete enough reference that another person could locate the source. When you **consult an expert** to get an answer, ask for the person's expertise (e.g. teacher, botanist, range manager, naturalist, etc.) For your **observations**, have an adult confirm your work by writing their signature.

Your teacher or the person who supervises the hunt will have a list of acceptable answers. If you are not part of a class, you may submit your answers to be graded by e-mail.

SCAVENGER HUNT QUESTIONS

Basic Level Questions

1. Has Little Bluestem been reported as growing in nature in your county?

Source

2. Approximately how tall is Little Bluestem when full grown?

Source

3. Why is this grass called "Little Bluestem"?

Source

4. Why is Little Bluestem able to survive during dry years?

Source

5. List two common names (besides Little Bluestem) that *Schizachyrium scoparium* has been called.

Source

6. On which kind(s) of prairie(s) is Little Bluestem typically found? short-grass prairie (), mixed grass prairie (), tall-grass prairie ().

Source

7. List two uses Native Americans made of Little Bluestem.

Source

8. What is the location (be as precise as possible) of the clump of Little Bluestem that grows nearest to your school building? How far is it from your school?

Source

9. List a specific place where one can buy Little Bluestem seeds or plants.

Source

10. If pasture/prairie where Little Bluestem is growing is over grazed, what is the impact on Little Bluestem?

Source

11. Name any and all states that have chosen Little Bluestem as their Official State Grass.

Source

Advanced Level Questions

12. Give the Latin name of the plant family to which Little Bluestem belongs.

Source

13. Name two attractive butterflies (skippers) whose larvae live and feed on Little Bluestem.

Source

14. What does the Latin name “scoparium” mean in English?

Source

15. On what part of the main stem of Little Bluestem do you find side branches?

Source

16. Tell what an “awn” is and what the awns look like on Little Bluestem.

Source

17. What was the scientific name for Little Bluestem in 1936?

Source