

BUSHY BLUESTEM - *Andropogon glomeratus*

by Allison Kelly - horticulture major in Dr. Vincent's HORT 461 Advanced Sustainable Garden Design class



Image source: http://www.catnapin.com/WildFlowers/Grass/Bushy%20Bluestem.%20Andropogon%20glomeratus%20-%20Coleman_small.jpg

Features:

Bushy Bluestem features showy copper-orange fall and winter color that persists for months². During the growing season, this large grass displays flattened blue

stems from which the bushy flower plumes appear in late summer³. Beneficial to a wide variety of wildlife¹⁰.

Siting:

Andropogon glomeratus needs plenty of room to grow and performs best in medium to wet soils². It can handle light shade, though it prefers full sun¹².

Care:

Plant crown at soil level¹⁸. At planting, water the roots and surrounding area slowly and deeply. Keep soil moist until plant is established, then apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the root zone when the soil is dry or during drought. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow

mulch to touch the plant stems¹⁸. Cut clumps to the ground in late winter to allow room for new growth¹².

Pests:

Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met.

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (10/30/12):

X *USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>*

X *SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>*

Sources available at the Sustainable Landscape Demonstration website at http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/demo/plant_profiles/sources.html

Latin name: <i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	Texture: Medium ²
Common name: Bushy Bluestem	Growth rate: Medium ³
Flowers: Bushy inflorescence ^{2,10}	Light: Sun ¹⁰
Fruit: Inconspicuous ¹⁶	Moisture: Medium to wet ¹²
Height & Width: 5-6' x 3' ²	Soil*: Tolerates a wide variety of soil types ¹²
Type: Perennial ¹⁰	Zones: 3-9 ²
Habit: Upright, clump-forming ³	Origin: Lower Western to Eastern United States, including South Carolina ¹⁶
Wetland indicator category**: FACW ¹⁷	Environmental benefits: Food source and cover for birds and other wildlife ¹⁶ ; tolerates air pollution, black walnuts, and deer ¹²