

2021 December *Guess that Plant*



Schizachyrium scoparium, Little bluestem

The December *Guess that Plant* is a native warm season grass found in every New Jersey county. Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, is one of North America's most important grass species. It forms an integral part of open upland ecosystems, specifically from the tall grass prairies east to the Atlantic coast. Little bluestem is found on New Jersey's roadsides, old fields, and natural forest gaps. It has a C4 metabolism, allowing the plant to occupy hot sunny environments common in open fields and plains. Little bluestem is the only *Schizachyrium* in New Jersey. It differs from the similar looking *Andropogon virginicum* by the lack of large cauline leaves, spathes around flower stalk base, and straw v golden color.

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