

## *Schizachyrium sanguineum*

### Crimson bluestem

#### SEED COLLECTING

- **When to collect**– Harvest seeds in summer-early fall. An infructescence consists of multiple seeds. Each seed ripens individually with those at the apex of the infructescence maturing first. Ripe seeds are dry, tan to light brown, and approximately 0.7 cm. in length (1 cm. including awns).
- **How to collect** – Small quantities of ripe seed may be collected by hand. Use larger organza bags to capture seeds in quantity. Tie bags around multiple infructescence and harvest when all seed falls off the stalk.
- **How to clean seed** – Seeds do not need to be processed immediately aside from drying thoroughly before processing. They may be run through the seed blower to separate them from any debris that may have accumulated over the collection period.

#### PROPAGATION BY SEED

- **Pre-treatment** – None. Direct sow.
- **Sowing methods**– Sow seeds in potting soil or a 50/50 soil/crushed limestone mixture.
- **Expected time to germinate** – Mean germination time 10 days (time to first germination 5 days, time to last germination 20 days)
- **Expected germination rate (%)**- 25-30%
- **Path to finished product**- Sow seeds in a community pot. Separate seedlings when they are approximately 3-4 cm in height and transplant individual seedlings to 3” pots. Add 2/3 teaspoon Florikan 18-6-8 time release fertilizer at time of transplant. Finished plants in 3” pots are often reproductive, well-rooted, with many tillers, and approximately 10-12 cm. in height. If advanced to 1-gallon pots, add 1 tablespoon Florikan 18-6-8 time release fertilizer at time of transplant. Finished plants in 1-gallon pots are reproductive, well-rooted, have many tillers, and approximately 30 cm. in height.
- **Time to finish product**
- **Expected quantity at end (% of seeds sown)** -

#### PROPAGATION BY CUTTINGS

- **Is species capable of propagation by cuttings?** Established, many tiller plants may be divided.
- **Best type of material to collect** – N/A
- **Best methods** – N/A
- **Expected success rate using best method** – N/A
- **Time to finished product** – N/A

#### COMMENTS

Preferred propagation method is by seed. There is no known insect or disease issues related to propagation of crimson bluestem.

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*Schizachyrium sanguineum* inflorescence showing seed segments and awns. Photo by Brian Harding on No Name Key, 28 July 2020.



*Schizachyrium sanguineum*. Photo by Brian Harding on No Name Key, 28 July 2020.