



Photo: Ron Vanderhoff, 2015  
CalPhotos/California

**Scientific name:** *Bothriochloa laguroides* ssp. *torreyana*,  
*Andropogon saccharoides* ssp. *torreyana*

**Common name(s):** Silver Bluestem, Silver Beard Grass

**Family:** Poaceae (Grass)

**Native:** CO, Southern Great Plains, Southwest

**Habitat:** Plains, shortgrass prairie, rocky slopes, roadsides

Silver Bluestem thrives in sunny, dry gardens; too much shade or water will result in lanky, floppy growth. Plant in drifts along a driveway or through a prairie garden. The bright green foliage turns orange in the fall and the silky flower puffs sparkle when back-lit in the garden. Silver Bluestem is a larval host for Skippers and Satyrs and provides winter forage for birds.

**Plant type:** Perennial clumping warm-season grass

**Elevation:** Native range to 6200'

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Soil:** Clay, sandy; well-drained

**Moisture:** Low, dry, xeric

**Flower color:** White fading to light tan

**Bloom time:** Late summer

**Mature size (height x width):** 2-3' x 2'



Photo: Matt Lavin, flickr



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**Propagation:** Assuming same treatment as for *Bouteloua curtipendula*. In mid March to mid April, sow outside in cells or in situ (protect seeds from birds). Cover to depth. The seeds do not require pretreatment (cold stratification), but they germinate best when they are exposed to large temperature swings (70-90°F with nights 35-45°F). Seeds will germinate in 2-7 weeks.

