

# MUHLY GRASS

**Common names:** Pink Muhly Grass, Gulf muhly, Hair-awn muhly, Hair grass

**Botanical name:** *Muehlenbergia capillaris*

**General information:** This perennial with very fine foliage was voted 2012 plant of the year by the Garden Club of America. It has a beautiful, graceful and wispy texture as it billows in the breeze. The delicate threadlike foliage varies from shades of silver to tan colored seed heads that form in late spring through early summer. In the fall it's a showstopper as the foliage takes on a breath-taking pink-purple hue with a feathery, cloudlike appearance. It prefers full sun areas. Its fine texture provides a beautiful contrast to other leafy perennials or woody plants.



A single plant can serve as an accent or border and is striking as a mass planting. Muhly Grass is native to Texas.

## **Characteristics:**

**Size:** Height: up to two-three feet high  
Width: up to two feet wide  
Dense clump forming / bush-like.

**Flowers:** Bloom color is pink/ purple and bloom time is October.

**Leaves:** Includes a double layer of bright green leaf like stems at the base and pink-purple wispy, fine-textured arching blooms above.

**Pests and Disease Problems:** Generally, disease resistant. None known

## **Growing in North Texas**

Muhly Grass is well adapted for North Texas and is considered an outstanding perennial according to Aggie Horticulture. It is becoming more commonly seen in highway/road medians and borders. It is often seen in borders en masse plantings. It is considered a medium- sized border or accent plant. Plant it in a sunny, well-drained soil site. However, it tolerates partial shade, difficult soil, and drought conditions once established. They have low fertilization needs. Muhly Grass is low maintenance and seeds can be gathered in Fall. Leave the dormant foliage up thru the winter for winter interest and shear the grass in late February/ early March.

**Of Note:** "The **genus** of this plant is named for Gotthilf Heinrich Ernst Muhlenberg (1753-1815), also Heinrich Ludwig Muehlenberg, or Henry Muhlenberg, who was a German-educated Lutheran minister and the first president of Franklin College, now Franklin and Marshall College, Pennsylvania. He is most famous due to his work in the field of botany." (Wildflower.org)

## **References:**

[Ornamental Grasses & Related Monocots HORT 308/609 Spring 2016 Plant List 3](#)

Keywords (tags): sun, ornamental grasses, perennials, texture