

TUFTED HAIRGRASS

Deschampsia cespitosa



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to the mountains in western U.S. but also found from East Coast to the West Coast in northern latitudes. Long-lived, cool-season tufted perennial bunchgrass. Found along streams, in wet meadows, ditches and open areas surrounding lakes and ponds. Culms 2 to 4' tall. Open panicles 4 to 8" long with fine spreading branches. Fine leaves, stem and seed head.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on moderately deep, fertile, moist,

medium to finely textured soils. Will tolerate moderately acid to neutral (pH 4.5 to - 7.0) soils. Weakly moderate drought tolerance. Vigorous native stands occur in 20" ppt. Good winter hardiness, common along northern coast at 3,000' elevation. Occurs chiefly in spruce-fir forests, above timberline, and in moist aspen stands. Adapted to wet or damp mountain sites at 7,000 to 13,000' elevations, but reportedly grows well on fairly dry soils, especially in open communities and disturbed sites at high elevations.

Native stands may occur in monocultures but can be mixed with needlegrasses (*Stipa* spp.), fescues (*Festuca* spp.), wheatgrasses (*Agropyron* spp.), bluegrasses (*Poa* spp.), forbs and shrubs.

CULTURE

Drill seed about 1/4" deep or broadcast using 0.8 to 1.6 lbs. PLS per acre, seed rate should be increased on disturbed soils and on harsh or eroding surfaces. Seeds are extremely small. Supplemental mulch aids soil stabilization and stand establishment on steep and erosive sites. Seed in late fall or as early in summer as possible in higher mountains. Weed control is essential.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used in seeding mixtures at high elevations on ski slopes, mined lands, burned-over forestlands and restoration for livestock and big game. Good palatability for livestock and elk when green. Moderate regrowth production in summer and fall. Some introduced varieties have been specifically selected for forage production at northern latitudes but may not have the cold tolerance of native ecotypes at high elevations.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Peru Creek' released from Colorado.

'Nortran' released from Alaska.

PawneeButtesSeedInc.

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