

Muhly Grass

Muhlenbergia capillaris

This easy-to-grow ornamental grass produces clumps that can reach 2 to 3 feet tall and up to 3 feet wide when mature. Delicate, purple flowers emerge in the fall well above the foliage and can literally cover the foliage. Garden designers often plant muhly grass in large groups for a stunning visual effect, especially when the flowers are backlit in the late afternoon. A stiff, upright growth habit makes this markedly different from many other grasses. Muhly grass is a tough native grass useful in many different landscape sites. It has extreme tolerance to drought and flooding, making it suited for wetland sites as well as beachfront landscapes. It is native to pine flatwoods, coastal upland and beach dunes, and sandhill communities.

Type: herbaceous ornamental grass

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11

Uses: reclamation plant; cut flowers; border; accent; mass planting; hedge

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 3 to 5 feet **Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: full sun

Soil tolerances: extended flooding; acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: moderate

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: There are no known pests or problems

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Photo: UF/ IFAS