

Hair-awn Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)

2-3' tuft of leaf blades, in flower the plant reaches 5'.

Primarily a Southeast U.S. species, but is native to CT, though endangered. In CT, found in dry, rocky, openings on trap rock. Elsewhere, found in upland savannahs, dry rocky open woods, rocky slopes and ledges.

Glossy, wiry, dark leaves form an attractive basal clump, turning copper in the fall.

Stiff stalks hold magnificent large gossamer haze of 3' feathery tassels with tiny flowers, first green, then white, then a superb rose-red as seeds mature in fall - through October, a ruby glow in the sun; attractive smoky gray in winter.

Sun, tolerating some shade; average to moist well-drained soil, prefers fairly fertile soil but tolerates poor soil. Tolerates drought, but is likes with some moisture while in flower. Adaptable. Takes a few seasons to reach full size.

Plant once air and soil have warmed, and water regularly during first month, especially.

Use as specimen, in drifts, meadows, wildflower areas, borders, foundations, cottage gardens, areas of poor soil, for cut and dried flowers.

Attracts ladybugs.
Seeds feed small birds.
Provides wildlife cover.
Deer seem to leave it alone.

Photo 1: Graham Wyatt
www.discoverlife.org/
Photos 2, 4: The Battery Conservancy
thebattery.org/plants/plantView.php?id=116
Photo 3: North Central Conservation
Photo 4: Bobby Hattaway
www.discoverlife.org/
Photos 6, 7:
Missouri Botanical Garden
PlantFinder
mobot.org.gardeninghelp/plantfinder
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