

**Pink Muhly Grass**

<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	<b>Texture:</b> Fine, hairlike <sup>12</sup>
<b>Common name:</b> Pink Muhly Grass	<b>Growth rate:</b> Medium <sup>16,19</sup>
<b>Flowers:</b> Showy, clouds of pink flowers, late summer and early fall <sup>12</sup>	<b>Light:</b> Full sun-light shade <sup>12,19</sup>
<b>Fruit:</b> Inconspicuous <sup>16</sup>	<b>Moisture:</b> Dry-medium, very drought tolerant <sup>12</sup>
<b>Height &amp; Width:</b> 2-3' x 2-3' <sup>12</sup>	<b>Soil*:</b> Well drained, sandy or rocky, acidic soils <sup>12</sup>
<b>Type:</b> Perennial ornamental grass <sup>12</sup>	<b>Zones:</b> 5-9 <sup>12</sup>
<b>Habit:</b> Clump-forming, upright grass <sup>12</sup>	<b>Origin:</b> Southern United States <sup>16</sup>
<b>Wetland indicator category**:</b> FAC <sup>17</sup>	<b>Ecosystem benefits:</b> Attracts birds <sup>19</sup>

(Numbers identify sources listed on page 2-3)

**Features:** Glossy, wiry, hair like dark green leaves and stems make a beautiful, clumped plant. Fall flowering proves a spectacular show of light, airy, seemingly floating pink to pinkish-red inflorescences each 12" long<sup>12</sup>.

**Siting:** Plants do well in full sun and well-drained soil<sup>12,19</sup>. Native plant areas, naturalizing, borders, cottage gardens, rain garden, massed for area cover<sup>12,19</sup>.

**Care:** Plant crown at soil level<sup>18</sup>. At planting, water the roots and surrounding area slowly and deeply. Keep soil moist until plant is established, then apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the root zone when the soil is dry or during drought. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the plant stems<sup>18</sup>.

**Pests:**

No serious insect or diseases if cultural preferences are met<sup>12</sup>.

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (10/6/23):

X USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>

X SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>

Image:



**Image source:** Missouri Botanical Garden Kemper Center for Home Gardening. *Plant finder*. Retrieved from <http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/Alpha.asp>

**Sources:**

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- (2) Armitage, A. (2006). *Armitage's native plants for North American gardens*. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press.
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- (4) Clemson Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center.(2011). *Flowers fact sheets*. Retrieved from <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/>

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- (13) North Carolina State University (2005). *Plant fact sheets*. Retrieved from <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/index.html>
- (14) Strother, E. V., Ham, D. L., Gilland, L. (2003) *Urban tree species guide: Choosing the right tree for the right place*. Columbia, SC: South Carolina Forestry Commission.
- (15) University of Florida, IFAS Extension. (2011). *Southern trees fact sheet*. Retrieved from [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/departments\\_envhort-trees](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/departments_envhort-trees)
- (16) USDA. *Plant profile*. (n/d).Retrieved from <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>
- (17) USDA. *Plant wetland indicator status*. (n/d). Retrieved from <http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html>
- (18) Vincent, E., Environmental horticulturist Clemson University, personal communication.
- (19) Clemson Extension. Carolina Yards Plant Database. Retrieved from <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/carolinayards/plant-database/index.html>

**Herbaceous Plant Profile: *Muhlenbergia capillaris***  
Choosing the Right Plant for the Right Place

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\*Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance [www.clemson.edu/extension/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/). Click on "local offices".

\*\*2012 Plant Wetland Indicator categories (quantitative derived) <http://plants.usda.gov/wetinfo.html>

Indicator Code	Indicator Status	Comment
OBL	Obligate Wetland	Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands
FACW	Facultative Wetland	Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands
FAC	Facultative	Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte
FACU	Facultative Upland	Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands
UPL	Obligate Upland	Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands