

Tufted Hairgrass

(*deschampsia caespitosa*)



Native Boreal Forest Grass

Tufted Hairgrass is a circumpolar native grass. It is found from Greenland to Alaska, south through the prairies and mountains of North America. **Tufted Hairgrass** is also found in Eurasia and Europe.

Growth Habit

Tufted Hairgrass is a medium to tall growing, densely tufted bunchgrass. It has a fibrous root system and stands between 20-80 cm in height. **Tufted Hairgrass** is a long-lived perennial.

Adaptation

In Western Canada, **Tufted Hairgrass** is adapted to the foothill and mountain regions of Alberta to the Prairie Parklands of

Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It is also commonly found in the northern half of the Prairie Provinces.

Tufted Hairgrass is well adapted to wetter sites and can withstand flooding and high water tables. It grows best in areas that receive over 20 inches of annual precipitation. Tufted Hairgrass grows in soils varying from sand to clay; but does perform best on finer textured soils. It has low to moderate drought tolerance. Tufted Hairgrass has excellent tolerance of acidity and grows in pH's from as low as 3.3 up to 7.5.

Reclamation Uses

Tufted Hairgrass is best suited for the revegetation of wet, acidic soils. It has been found to be a species that will grow in areas, such as mine tailings, which have elevated levels of heavy metals and hydrocarbons. **Tufted Hairgrass** is considered fair as a soil stabilizer but it does not spread quickly. **Tufted Hairgrass** does produce a fair amount of forage and is valuable wildlife fodder.

Seed Vigor and Establishment

Germination of Tufted Hairgrass is generally 75% to 85%. Establishment is relatively easy. Seed vigor is good generally. Seed production and harvest difficulties reduce supply in some years.

Quick Facts

| Growth Habit | Flooding Tolerance | Drought Tolerance | Salt Tolerance | Soil pH | Soil Type | Seedling Vigor | Seeds per lb. |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bunchgrass | Excellent | Fair | Poor | Very Acidic 3.3-7.5 | Sandy-clay | Good | 2,500,000 |