

Name

Deschampsia cespitosa

Tufted hair-grass



Habitat/Range Different forms of this common species constitute significant elements of a wide range of different habitats throughout the British Isles, over mildly acid, through neutral, to calcareous conditions. It can be a characteristic grass of ancient woodland, and also forming a major element of marshy grassland (NVC type MG9) as well as being found in fen, heath and montane habitats. It generally prefers areas of poorly-drained soil.

Identification A large and strongly tufted grass, often reaching over 1.5 m tall when flowering. The foliage is dark green and very rough and coarse, the leaves are parallel-sided and deeply grooved with long narrow ligules with pointed ends. Taking care not to get cut, a thumb and forefinger can be moved upwards along a leaf, but not downwards, due to the alignment of sharp bristles. The large spreading panicles hold numerous small spikelets and have a light and feathery appearance.



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