

Name

Deschampsia flexuosa

Wavy hair-grass



Habitat/Range Chalk and limestone areas are avoided by this strongly tufted grass species, which is widespread over the more acidic areas of the British Isles. It likes freely draining acid areas and is found from sea-level to over 1,220 m in mountainous areas. It forms an important part of birch/oak woodland ground flora and is also found in heath and acid grassland habitats, including on industrial wastes.

Identification The very fine mid-green leaves are bunched in tight tufts with plants forming a very tussocky, low sward 5-20 cm tall (before flowering). This hummocky effect is often seen below birch canopy and between heather clumps. When flowering, the open panicles impart a pinkish haze above the fine leaves, to 20-30 cm height, with shiny waved branches and shiny spikelets creating a shimmering effect in bright light. In seed, the flowerheads fade to a buff colour and do not generally persist for as long as those of common bent.



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