




Muhlenbergia capillaris

Hair-awn or Pink Muhly

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

The thin blades of this spectacular species* droop at the tips to form a fine-textured skirt for airy, rosy-red plumes displayed in a spherical crown. The genus name of this plant honors Henry Muhlenberg whose study of plants earned him distinction as America's first outstanding botanist.



Grass / Sedge	Early Fall Plant & Seed Heads, Mid-Fall Plant
Height: 2–3 feet	
Spread: 2–3 feet	
Bloom Color: Pinkish-red	
Characteristics	
Clumping perennial grass with a rounded crown	
Low tufts of glossy green arching blades	
Airy rosy-red plumes September to November	
Russet to tawny autumn color	
Tan seed plumes persist in winter	
Attributes	
Tolerates poor soil, drought, flooding, heat, humidity, air pollution, salt, and Black Walnut	
No serious pests or diseases; deer rarely damage	
Tough and very adaptable	 
Multi-season interest	
Attracts beneficial insects like lady beetles; provides cover for birds and perching places for butterflies	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Well-drained	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> - Fountain Grass
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	
Water Requirements: Dry, Moist	
Propagate by division in spring	
Use as an accent or screen or en masse in mixed borders or in beachfront or meadow gardens	*It is native to DC and to Montgomery County, MD. It is historical in the Piedmont of DE and extirpated in PA. In VA, it is rare in the Coastal Plain, infrequent in the mountains and infrequent to locally common in the Piedmont, where it is native to NoVA in Fairfax County.
Hardiness: USDA Zones 5–9	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and by Mary Free (bottom right), Green Spring Gardens