

MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS

“REGAL MIST” (NEBBIA REGALE)



Fam. Poaceae

HABITAT

This species is native to the southern and eastern regions of the United States. Coarse. It can withstand summer temperatures above 40 °C [104 °F] and tolerates winter ones (it can survive at temperatures of -10 °C [14 °F]).

STEM

It is a perennial herbaceous plant with an orbicular and expanded habit. It has filiform foliage of an intense green colour, similar to hair or capillaries – hence capillaris –, which makes it very elegant. It gradually turns a coppery colour toning to golden brown on the first winter cold.

DISTRIBUTION

It is an ornamental plant commonly grown in public parks. It is useful for curbing soil erosion and desertification.

FLOWERS

Flowers are pink-purple and are bundled in showy, elegant, soft spiked inflorescences, appearing on the top of stalks more than 1 metre [3.3 ft] high swaying in the wind lightly, like clouds. The inflorescences attract insects, especially ladybugs. It blooms from the end of August until October when the seeds ripen. The flowers turn creamy white and remain beautiful throughout the winter; they are spectacular with mist or frost.

ROOTS

It has a robust fasciculated root that quickly produces thick and very decorative foliage. It only thrives on very well-drained soils, with full sun exposure.

INTERESTING FACTS

The plant is commonly known as “Pink Hair Grass” or “Hairawn Muhly”. In September and October, it turns into a spectacular pink cloud thanks to its ethereal cotton-candy inflorescences. The blowing of the wind, the morning dew and the low angle of the sunset light create extraordinary visual effects and reflections, almost magical.