

DESCHAMPSIA CESPITOSA (L.) Beauv.
Tufted Hair Grass

FAMILY: Poaceae

SYNONYM: *Deschampsia caespitosa* (L.) Beauv.

HABIT: Herbaceous, densely tufted perennial, 5-12 dm.; flowering May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species superficially resembles many species in the tribe Agrostideae, and technical characters are necessary for identification.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. to NJ, WV, NC, IL, MN, and AZ.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Champaign, Clark, Greene, Logan, Miami, and Stark counties. Pre-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Lake, and Ross counties.

HABITAT: Limited to areas of full sun, neutral or basic soils, and constant ground moisture; it grows in a variety of wet places including bogs, fens, and wet grassy meadows.

HAZARDS: Drainage of the habitat; overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor, as it is sensitive to drainage modifications. However, Dore and McNeill (1980) state that, under cultivation, it develops vigorously from seed.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification. Collect the underground parts and note density of basal tufts.

COMMENTS: Most recent state records of this plant are from fen habitats of west-central Ohio. However, two historical records (Ashtabula and Lake counties) are from the Lake Erie shoreline. Dore and McNeill (1980) state that, in Ontario, *D. caespitosa* is confined largely to shoreline habitats of the Great Lakes. While chances of finding additional populations of this grass are probably best in fen areas, surveys of the Lake Erie shoreline may also reveal new stations.

The specific epithet of this plant is spelled differently by various authors. Voss (1966) argues in favor of *D. cespitosa*, the original spelling by Linnaeus. However, *D. caespitosa*, the correct Latin spelling used by most manuals, is retained here.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Dore, W.G. and J. McNeill. 1980. Grasses of Ontario. Agric. Canada Monograph 26. 566 p.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Hitchcock, A.S. 1951. Manual of grasses of the United States. Ed. 2, rev. by A. Chase, U.S. Dep. Agr. Misc. Publ. 200. 1051 p.

Kawano, S. 1962. Cytogeography and evolution in the *Deschampsia caespitosa* complex. Can. J. Bot. 41: 719-742.

Voss, E.G. 1966. Nomenclatural notes on monocots. Rhodora 68: 435-463.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 2/1984 David Spooner, James Burns