Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights

Deschampsia cespitosa 'Northern Lights'

Plant Height: 10 inches

Flower Height: 15 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

Grown for it's grassy variegated foliage in green and cream, tinged with pink in cooler weather; beautiful accent in containers; smaller plant also good in borders and smaller spaces

Ornamental Features

Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights's attractive grassy leaves are green in color with showy creamy white variegation and tinges of pink on a plant with a mounded habit of growth. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous pink in the fall. It features subtle spikes of tan flowers rising above the foliage in mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial grass with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity extending to 15 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 15 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Tufted Hair Grass, Northern Lights is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.