

Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'

Golden Dew Tufted Hair Grass

Prized for its golden clouds of seed heads in late summer, *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau' (Golden Dew Tufted Hair Grass) is a beautiful variety of a Great Lakes native plant. This cool-season grass wakes up in early spring, with dark-green blades in neat, spiked clumps that are 1' tall. The wind-pollinated flowers emerge in June and reach 2' tall, waving proudly above the tidy foliage below. As a cool-season grass, this plant goes somewhat dormant in the heat of summer, causing the plant and seed heads to turn a golden tan that contrasts nicely with other actively-growing plants, such as Mistflower, Green-headed Coneflower, and Scarlet Bee-Balm. The golden seed panicles hold their cloud-like appearance until a heavy snow topples them down. Clump grasses like Tufted Hair Grass provide overwintering habitat for bees and butterflies that pupate in the leaf litter over winter. This ornamental grass grows well in light shade to full sun and prefers moist, organically-rich soils. It can be sensitive to long-term drought and heat, but deer and salt do not bother this plant, so it may be suitable for urban landscapes, particularly if they are irrigated.

Botanical Name: *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau'

Common Name: Gold Dew Tufted Hair Grass

Family: Poaceae

Nativity: Great Lakes Native

USDA Zone: 3 to 8

Light Type: Full Sun to Light Shade

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Prefers acidic, organically rich, well-drained soils.

Soil Moisture: Medium

Typical height (ft): 1-2' (1' foliage; 2' with flowers/seed heads)

Typical width (ft): 2'

Foliage: Dark green

Bloom Time: June, July, August

Bloom: Tan

Ecological features: Grass clumps provide overwintering habitat for bees & other pollinators; songbirds may eat seeds in fall and winter.

Tolerance of: Salt, deer

Additional notes: Cool-season grass. Effective in phytoremediation. Tolerates short periods of drought but may need irrigation in hot, dry situations.

Companion plants: Eastern Star Sedge (*Carex radiata*), Northern Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), Mistflower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*), Green-headed Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), Scarlet Bee-balm (*Monarda didyma*), Feather Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster')

For more information see:

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Deschampsia-caespitosa-Goldtau>

<https://www.midwestgroundcovers.com/plant/Deschampsia-caespitosa-Goldtau>

<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Deschampsia-caespitosa-Goldtau>

<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/perennial-plants/ornamental-grass/deschampsia-gold-dew-tufted-hair-grass>

<http://hoffmannnursery.com/plants?search=goldtau>

Images of *Deschampsia caespitosa* 'Goldtau'



Deschampsia_caespitosa_Goldtau_kz2.jpg

Plant form



73621
Linear leaves



deschampsia-cespitosa-goldtau-hoffman_cropped_3_2
Clouds of seed heads



deschampsia-cespitosa-goldtau-hoffman_cropped_1_2
Mass planting



1698_C450-0901020

Dark green foliage

Image choices for narrative:

Deschampsia_caespitosa_Goldtau_kz2.jpg

Plant form

deschampsia-caespitosa-goldtau-hoffman_cropped_3_2 -- Clouds of seed heads