



## ***Shining Muttongrass in the Landscape***

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### ***Poa fendleriana***

***Mutton Bluegrass/ Shining Muttongrass***



**Description:** Bunched tufted perennial grass with fibrous roots 10" deep. Inconspicuous in the landscape, with pink/purple tinged flowers. Shining Muttongrass is suited to elevations between 3,000' and 12,000'. Environmentally flexible.

#### **Cultural Requirements:**

- Native habitat
- Soil
- Cold Hardiness
- Drought Tolerance
- Water Tolerance (tolerance to wet soils)
- Salt Tolerance

Muttongrass is an important late successional understory component in juniper and piñon-juniper communities. Plants can also be found throughout ponderosa pine and into aspen forests and Engelmann spruce-lodgepole pine zones.

This species performs best on well-drained clay loams but is also found in drier, less fertile, gravelly and sandy soils

High

none

- Sun/Shade Preference      Can handle the full sun or shade.
- Transplanting              Easy
- Propagation                Seed, division. Only a small portion of seed produced is viable. Low yields, low seedling vigor. Apomictic
- Growth Rate
- Maintenance              Standard ornamental practices to maintain health and vigor
- Special Problems        Intolerant of anaerobic or saline conditions

Landscape Value:

- Use in Landscape        A substitute for Sheep Fescue, massing, ornamental grass for shady areas, backdrop
- Foliage                    Basal, pale to dark green or with whitish coating, tiff, erect, folded or rolled inward. Open sheaths. Remains green when dry.
- Root system              fibrous roots 10" deep
- Inflorescence            Unisexual, papery, shiny, tinged with purple or pink. Most florets are female, very few males
- Flower Time
- Flower Color
- Form
- Texture
- Size and Growth Rate
- Plant Community
- Availability and Cultivars

April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct

Bunched/tufted.

Coarse

Upright culms 1/2'-2 1/2 ' tall

Subalpine, parkland, aspen forest, mountain brush, piñon-juniper, rock outcropping, shrub steppe

Limited availability. No known cultivars

## More Photos



Photo by Derek J. Tilley

## Bibliography

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