

LINDHEIMER'S MUHLY GRASS

Muhlenbergia lindheimeri



Characteristics

- Type: Grass
- Zone: 6-10
- Height: 2-5 Feet
- Width: 3-6 Feet
- Leaf: Light grey-green to light blue-green
- Autumn Foliage: yes
- Flower: Panicles 15-45 cm long
- Fruit: Greyish to whitish
- Flower Color: Cream
- Flower Season: Summer, Spring
- Sun: Full
- Water Use: Medium
- Soil Moisture: Dry, Moist
- Maintenance: Low
- Deer Resistant
- Texas Native
- Texas Superstar® Plant

Culture

Lindheimer's Muhly Grass is a semi-evergreen grass. It is an extremely versatile clump forming, tough, warm-season perennial native to Texas. It has outstanding drought tolerance. Its size allows it to serve as a low-input substitute for small to medium size shrubs. The plant's rounded to fountain-shaped canopy is composed of long-arching aqua to blue-green, strap-like, keeled leaves. The canopy is topped by 8- 18-inch narrow flower panicles that open with a hint of purple/red, turning silver/white to gray/white as they mature, and eventually light brown or gray/brown as seeds ripen from summer to fall. Foliage is typically 3 - 4 feet tall with flower stalks extending an additional foot above the foliage. It performs best in full sun, but plants will tolerate light shade. Fair to good forage for livestock and wildlife. Leaves provide nesting material for birds.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Lindheimer's Muhly Grass is a Texas Superstar® Plant. To be designated a Texas Superstar, a plant must not only be beautiful but perform well for consumers and growers throughout the state. Lindheimer muhly grass is amazingly adapted to all parts of the state and turns fall borders into graceful wands of fawn and tan. It adapts to soils with a wide range of pH and textures but needs reasonable drainage. You can fertilize like any other perennial, in the spring and maybe summer, then let them go dormant in the fall. Native from the Edwards Plateau of central Texas south to northern Mexico, this muhly has become increasingly popular since the 1980s as an elegant, large-scale specimen grass, large enough for screening. The genus of this plant is named for Gotthilf Heinrich Ernst Muhlenberg (1753-1815), who was a German-educated Lutheran minister. The species is named after Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer (1801-1879) who is often called the Father of Texas Botany because of his work as Texas' permanent-resident plant collector.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems.

Garden Uses

Specimen, background for colorful flowers, plumes effective in fresh or dried-cut flower arrangements.