

Deschampsia flexuosa - Wavy hair-grass



Plant description

Wavy hair-grass (*Avenella flexuosa*, previously *Deschampsia flexuosa*) grows in tufts of wiry green leaves, which emerge from slightly purple sheaths. The flower stalks are a distinctive wavy shape that gives the grass its name. The flower heads are small two shiny purple spikelets, set upon the branched stalks.

What does this tell me about my woodland?

The plant is found in the dry to moist acid soils of W16 and 17 woodlands, and in various heaths and grasslands environments; is a frequent coloniser following felling of conifer plantations. The species can compete strongly with newly planted trees. As such, effective weed control is especially important for tree establishment in sites with a large population of wavy hair-grass.

pH – Mildly acidic, neutral and alkaline

Occurs in NVC Communities – W16, W17