

**CUTOVER MUHLY**  
*Muhlenbergia capillaris*  
**(Lam.) Trin. var. trichopodes**  
**(Ell.) Vasey**  
Plant Symbol = MUCAT

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



A.S. Hitchcock (1950)  
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**Alternative Names**  
*Muhlenbergia expansa*

**Uses**  
New growth of cutover muhly is fair forage. Old growth, which is partly green during winter, furnishes fair forage, but livestock should be fed a protein supplement with it.

**Status**  
Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status and wetland indicator values.

**Description**  
Grass Family (Poaceae). Cutover muhly is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 1 to 3 feet. Leaf blade is 12 to 14 inches long; narrow; wiry, tough, twists slightly at maturity and margins fold or roll inward. The leaf sheath is rounded, mostly basal and curls into fibrous mass at maturity. The ligule has a white, papery membrane 1/8 to 1/4 inch long. The seedhead is open and delicate with a purple panicle 14 to 20 inches long. The spikelets are 1/4 inch long, with short awns on glumes.

**Distribution:** For current distribution, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

**Management**  
Generally this grass makes up a small part of the plant community. Burning and grazing controls it. It responds to proper grazing use and a grazing deferment of at least 60 days during growing season.

**Establishment**  
This plant makes major growth from April through September. A mixture of young, mature, and dead growth in a single clump is usual. Little, if any, growth is made during cool season. Summer growth, however, remains green during fall and winter. Seed stalks are produced in late August and September and frequently persist through winter and early spring. It is adapted to level to very gently sloping poorly drained strongly acid sands with fine-textured subsoil.

**Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)**  
Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

**Reference**  
Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS *Agriculture Handbook No. 389*, Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the

PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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