

Koeleria macrantha

[Synonyms : *Acheata geniculata*, *Aira bulbosa*, *Aira cristata*, *Aira dactyloides*, *Aira gracilis*, *Aira macrantha*, *Airochloa albescens*, *Airochloa cristata*, *Airochloa gracilis*, *Airochloa parviflora*, *Brachystylus cristatus*, *Dactylis cristata*, *Festuca cristata*, *Koeleria albescens*, *Koeleria albescens* var. *glabra*, *Koeleria albida*, *Koeleria alpigena*, *Koeleria alpigena* subsp. *mannagettae*, *Koeleria ambigua*, *Koeleria arkansana*, *Koeleria aschersoniana*, *Koeleria australiensis*, *Koeleria australiensis* var. *aristata*, *Koeleria australiensis* var. *maxima*, *Koeleria bitczenachica*, *Koeleria britanica* var. *pontarlieri*, *Koeleria britannica*, *Koeleria calarashica*, *Koeleria californica*, *Koeleria chakassica*, *Koeleria compacta*, *Koeleria cristata*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *albescens*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *amurensis*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *argentea*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *aristulata*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *aurea*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *avenacea*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *chakassica*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *colorata*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *contracta*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *depauperata*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *desertorum*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *dominiana*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *elatior*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *elegantula*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *festucoides*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *flaccida*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *geniculata*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *glabra*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *gracilis*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *gracillima*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *grandiflora*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *gypsacea*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *helvetica*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *hirsutiflora*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *includens*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *intercedens*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *krylovii*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *lanata*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *longifolia*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *macrantha*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *major*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *mandshurica*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *minutiflora*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *mongolica*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *nuttalii*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *oregona*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *pilifera*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *pinetorum*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *poaeformis*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *pseudocristata*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *pubescens*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *pubiculmis*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *repens*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *sabulosa*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *scabriglumis*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *seminuda*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *subglabra*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *subpubiculmis*, *Koeleria cristata* forma *subsetacea*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *tenuifolia*, *Koeleria cristata* var. *tokiensis*, *Koeleria cristata* subsp. *transiliensis*, *Koeleria csatoi*, *Koeleria elatior* forma *glabrescens*, *Koeleria elegantula*, *Koeleria eminens*, *Koeleria fenzliana*, *Koeleria flexilis*, *Koeleria glaucovirens*, *Koeleria glaucovirens* var. *jankae*, *Koeleria gracilis*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *amurensis*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *artica*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *arenicola*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *aristulata*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *aurea*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *avenacea*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *biflora*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *borbasii*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *breviculmis*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *britannica*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *californica*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *californiensis*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *caudata*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *colorata*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *congesta*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *contracta*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *dasyclada*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *densevestita*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *depauperata*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *elatior*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *festucoides*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *filifolia*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *flaccida*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *gracillima*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *grandiflora*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *gypsacea*, *Koeleria gracilis* var.

hirsutiflora, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *hummelii*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *idahoensis*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *includens*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *intercedens*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *lanata*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *latifrons*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *laxa*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *longifolia*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *macrura*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *mandshurica*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *minutiflora*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *missouriana*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *mukdenensis*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *munita*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *nitida*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *oregana*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *pilifera*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *polyantha*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *pseudocristata*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *pseudocristatoides*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *pseudonitida*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *pubescens*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *pubiculmis*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *quadriflora*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *rigidissima*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *rohlena*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *rossica*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *sabulosa*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *scabriglumis*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *seminuda*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *sibirica*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *sintensisii*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *sublanuginosa*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *subpubiglumis*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *subrepens*, *Koeleria gracilis* var. *tokiensis*, *Koeleria gracilis* subsp. *transsilvanica*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *triflora*, *Koeleria gracilis* forma *washingtonensis*, *Koeleria helvetica*, *Koeleria idahoensis*, *Koeleria idahoensis* var. *idahoensis*, *Koeleria idahoensis* var. *pseudocristatoides*, *Koeleria jankae*, *Koeleria javorkae*, *Koeleria krylovii*, *Koeleria kurdica*, *Koeleria kurdica* var. *bitzenachica*, *Koeleria latifrons*, *Koeleria longifolia*, *Koeleria macrantha* var. *arenicola*, *Koeleria macrantha* forma *aristulata*, *Koeleria macrantha* var. *borbasii*, *Koeleria macrantha* var. *colorata*, *Koeleria macrantha* var. *eminens*, *Koeleria macrantha* var. *fenzliana*, *Koeleria macrantha* var. *flaccida*, *Koeleria macrantha* forma *lanata*, *Koeleria macrantha* forma *longifolia*, *Koeleria macrantha* subsp. *pseudocristata*, *Koeleria macrantha* var. *rohlena*, *Koeleria macrura*, *Koeleria macrura* forma *biflora*, *Koeleria macrura* forma *quadriflora*, *Koeleria macrura* forma *triflora*, *Koeleria majoriflora*, *Koeleria mannagettae*, *Koeleria mukdenensis*, *Koeleria nitida*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *arkansana*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *breviculmis*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *californica*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *caudata*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *latifrons*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *laxa*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *missouriana*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *nitida*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *sublanuginosa*, *Koeleria nitida* var. *subrepens*, *Koeleria nyaradyi*, *Koeleria oregana*, *Koeleria pallida*, *Koeleria poaeformis*, *Koeleria poiformis*, *Koeleria polyantha* var. *californica*, *Koeleria pontarlieri*, *Koeleria pseudocristata*, *Koeleria pseudocristata* var. *californica*, *Koeleria pseudocristata* var. *longifolia*, *Koeleria pseudocristata* var. *oregona*, *Koeleria pseudocristata* var. *pseudocristata*, *Koeleria pseudocristata* var. *pseudonitida*, *Koeleria pseudoglauca* subsp. *csatoi*, *Koeleria pseudoglauca* subsp. *fenzliana*, *Koeleria pyramidata*, *Koeleria robinsoniana*, *Koeleria robinsoniana* var. *australis*, *Koeleria robinsoniana* var. *robinsoniana*, *Koeleria sclerophylla*, *Koeleria sclerophylla* subsp. *theodoriana*, *Koeleria seminuda*, *Koeleria sibirica*, *Koeleria soongarica*, *Koeleria supra-arenaria*, *Koeleria talievii*, *Koeleria taurica*, *Koeleria tenuipes*, *Koeleria tokiensis*, *Koeleria tokiensis* subsp. *mongolica*, *Koeleria transiliensis*, *Koeleria transsilvanica*, *Koeleria transsilvanica* subsp. *tenuipes*, *Koeleria velenovskyi*, *Koeleria yukonensis*, *Melica gmelinii*, *Poa cristata*, *Poa nitida*]

CRESTED HAIRGRASS is a perennial grass. Native to northern Asia, to Europe (including Britain) and to North America, it has shiny grey- or purple-tinged green flower spikelets. It is also known as Crested koeleria, *Cribwellt* (Welsh), *Fin tofsäxing* (Swedish), Junegrass, Koelers grass, Mountain junegrass, *Ometlina štíhla* (Slovak), Prairie junegrass, Prairie koeler's grass, and *Smělek štíhlý* (Czech).

Flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Macrantha is derived from Greek *macro-* (large, long) and *-antha* (flowered) components meaning 'with large flowers'.

For the Isleta Indians (and no doubt other North American Indian tribes too) the tiny seeds offered a staple food before the advent of wheat *Triticum*. They used them to make bread and a porridge-like dish. The Havasupai tribe not only made them into bread but also stored them in caves for Winter food.

The grass provided fodder for Okanagan-Colville horses and cattle, and the Havasupai Indians grazed their livestock on it.

Some of the Navajo Indians used a bound bunch of crested hair-grass (about a foot long) as a cleaning brush, while this grass provided a paintbrush for the Cheyenne when participants were preparing themselves for ceremonial rituals.

The plant also played a role when the Cheyenne Indians performed their Sun Dance.

As a medicine the North American Cheyenne applied the grass to cuts.

As long in the past under Indian regimes the grass provides grazing today (viewed in western North America apparently as one of the better grasses available there) for both livestock and wild animals.