PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Koeleria cristata* (L.) Pers.

**GENUS** *Koeleria* **FAMILY** Poaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Crested hair grass, Shining spike-grass

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds

## DESCRIPTION

A densely tufted grass. It keeps growing from year to year. The stalks are slender and smooth. They grow up to 50 cm high. The leaves at the base are short and narrow. The flowers are in a spike like group and this is 4-5 cm long. The spikelets have 2-4 flowers. They are shiny and compressed. They are 4-5 mm long.

Possibly now Koeleria macrantha

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in subalpine places on sandy soils in the Rocky Mountains in Canada.

## NOTES

There are 25-35 Koeleria species.
There is considerable confusion over the name.

## REFERENCES


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Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994)

Porsild, A.E., 1974, Rocky Mountain Wild Flowers. Natural History Series No. 2 National Museums of Canada. p 56

Syn. pl. 1:97. 1805 - an illegitimate, superfluous name (ICBN Art. 52) as Persoon included K. pyramidata & K. pectinata

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 85 (As Rostraria cristata)

Yanovsky, E., 1936, Food Plants of the North American Indians. United States Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication No 237. Washington, D.C.



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International



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**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/704a747d-1dc0-41bb-8fa1-53bb4595aa07