

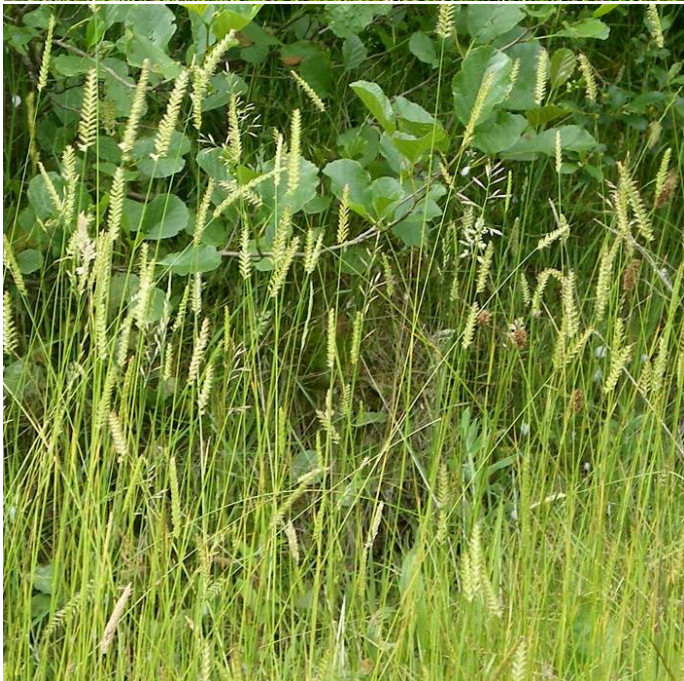
## Name

*Cynosurus cristatus*

## Crested dog's-tail

**Habitat/Range** This short-lived perennial grass is found in a wide range of swards, especially short and heavily grazed neutral and calcareous grasslands, both unimproved and semi-improved. It thrives in a variety of soil types but avoids both acid and limy extremes. It is spread throughout the British Isles and is generally a lowland species, but reaches over 800m in Cumbria. It likes fairly well-drained soils and does not tolerate water-logging very well; it withstands light traffic and is often found along footpaths and tracks through grasslands. It is widely distributed beyond its native range due to frequent inclusion in seed mixes.

**Identification** Growing in compact tufts this perennial grass has culms of 5 to 75 cm tall, generally very stiff-looking with narrow green and generally hairless leaves. The ligules are short and blunt. The panicle forms a stiff one-sided spike with dense clusters of spikelets, some fertile some sterile, arranged in fan-shapes along the stem, giving the spike a jagged outline.



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