

# The flora of sandy grasslands



Geo bed sand

Sandy grasslands rich in grey hair-grass (*Corynephorous canescens*) are pioneer plant communities often found on the mobile sand dunes of the North Sea and Baltic Sea coasts. These sandy soils are dry and contain little humus or nutrients. Unless wind, drought and trampling damage hinder their further development, these communities will eventually turn into heathland with common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*).

## Photos:

- 1** Sandy grasslands rich in grey hair-grass occur not only at the coast, but also occasionally further inland. A good example of such inland sandy grasslands can be found at the "Teufelsmauer" northeast of the Harz Mountains. Photo: U. Hertel
- 2** Grey hair-grass (*Corynephorous canescens*) is well adapted to the extreme conditions in its natural habitat (high temperatures, low water supply and low nutrient levels). The small, dense tussocks of this species play a major role in the stabilisation of grey dunes, as we have tried to show in this geo bed. Photo: L. Köhler
- 3** Another characteristic species of this plant community is thrift (*Armeria maritima*), which produces conspicuous pink flowers. Photo: D. Hertel



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

