

Dreamy Tags

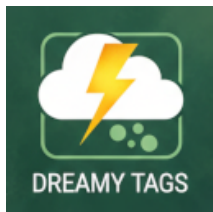
A filtered tag cloud plugin for WordPress



See the patterns. Hide the noise.

Dreamy Tags is a WordPress plugin that lets you build **focused, meaningful tag clouds** by filtering tags based on **categories, tags, and exclusion rules**—without forcing you to rename content, invent namespaces, or contort your site’s structure.

If you’ve ever looked at a tag cloud and thought *“this isn’t telling me anything useful,”* this plugin was built for you.



Why Dreamy Tags exists

Tag clouds are great in theory—but in practice they often:

- Mix unrelated content together
- Highlight tags that appear on *every* post
- Fail when a site grows to host multiple series, podcasts, or projects

Dreamy Tags was created to solve a very specific, very common problem:

How do you surface themes inside a subset of your content without rewriting your taxonomy?

The answer is filtering—done thoughtfully.

What Dreamy Tags does

Dreamy Tags generates a tag cloud using only posts that match your criteria:

You can filter by:

- **Category** (e.g. “Podcasts”)
- **Required tags** (e.g. “Dreamy Audio Podcast”)
- **Excluded tags** (e.g. “Audio Diary”, “Dream Journal”)

And optionally:

- **Auto-exclude the filtering tags themselves**
(So the tag you used to filter doesn’t dominate the cloud)

The result is a tag cloud that highlights **recurring themes**, not administrative labels.

Two ways to use it

1. Shortcode

For classic WordPress setups or quick insertion:

```
[dreamy_tag_cloud cat="3,4,5" tags="16,17" exclude="108,109" auto_exclude="true"]
```

Shortcodes accept comma-delimited IDs and work anywhere shortcodes are supported.

2. Gutenberg Block (recommended)

Dreamy Tags also ships with a **dynamic Gutenberg block**:

- Live preview in the editor
- Inspector controls for filtering options
- No manual markup required
- Server-rendered output for performance and compatibility

This makes it easy to experiment and immediately see how different filters change the results.

A real-world use case

Dreamy Tags was built to analyze patterns in a long-running dream-journal podcast archive.

- All episodes live in a **Podcasts** category
- Multiple podcasts share the same category
- Each episode includes a **series-specific tag**
- That tag should *filter*, but not *appear* in the cloud

Common Themes

[Authority And Rules](#) [Authority Figures](#) [Burnout Themes](#) [College Anxiety](#) [Countdown Anxiety](#) [Dogs](#) [Domestic Dreams](#) [Dream Logic](#) [Driving Dreams](#) [Education Dreams](#) [Failed Escape Plans](#) [Family Dynamics](#) [Family Support](#) [Found Objects](#) [Fragmented Dreams](#) [Hidden Controls](#) [Hidden Mechanisms](#) [Identity Confusion](#) [Identity Slippage](#) [Integrity And Regret](#) [Life Transitions](#) [Loss Of Control](#) [Memory Fragments](#) [Miscommunication](#) [Moral Anxiety](#) [Moral Restraint](#) [Near Misses](#) [Public Spectacle](#) [Quiet Authority](#) [Quiet Gratitude](#) [Recurring School Dreams](#) [Relationship Dynamics](#) [Rescue And Confusion](#) [Science Fiction Dreams](#) [Shape Shifters](#) [Shared Spaces](#) [Shifting Rules](#) [Surreal Conflict](#) [Surreal Dreams](#) [Surreal Imagery](#) [Surreal Motion](#) [Surreal Transitions](#) [Transition And Belonging](#) [Underwater Dreams](#) [Workplace Dreams](#)

Dreamy Tags Settings

TITLE

Common Themes

FILTER CATEGORIES

Type to search categories, then click to add

Podcasts ×

FILTER TAGS

Type to search tags, then click to add

Dreamy Audio podcast ×

☒ Auto-exclude filtered tags

EXCLUDE TAGS

Type to search tags, then click to exclude

Audio Diary ×

Dream Journal ×

Cache ×

Politics ×

Sick ×

With Dreamy Tags:

- Only the correct podcast episodes are included
- The series tag is hidden automatically
- Common but unhelpful tags can be excluded
- The remaining tags reveal recurring dream themes

This turns a tag cloud into an **analytical tool**, not decoration.

Designed to fit real WordPress sites

- Works with existing taxonomies
- No required renaming or prefixing
- No assumptions about page templates
- Compatible with widgets, shortcodes, and blocks
- Uses WordPress-native APIs and patterns

Dreamy Tags adapts to *your* content instead of asking you to adapt to it.

Open source & permissive

Dreamy Tags is released under the **ISC License**:

- Free to use
- Free to modify
- Free to redistribute
- Minimal restrictions

You're encouraged to fork it, improve it, or tailor it to your own workflow.

Get the plugin

- **Source code & documentation:**
<https://github.com/lewismoten/dreamy-tag-cloud>

- **Installation:**

Download the ZIP and upload it through your WordPress dashboard, or install from source.

What's next

Planned or potential improvements include:

- Selecting categories and tags by **name**, not numeric ID
- Expanded styling controls (colors, spacing, min/max sizes)
- Optional display of post counts per tag
- Enhanced editor UX for large archives

Dreamy Tags is actively evolving alongside a growing archive.

Who this is for

Dreamy Tags is especially useful if you:

- Run multiple series or podcasts on one site
- Maintain a long-form archive or research log
- Care about discoverability and patterns
- Want tag clouds to *mean something*

If your site thinks like a library, this plugin will feel at home.