

Smooth Brome

(Bromus inermis)



Where does it grow? Smooth brome, an introduced species, usually grows best in regions with rainfall of 15 to 25 inches and moderate summer temperatures. Its general ranges are California and Washington to the west, Michigan and Ohio to the east, and New Mexico and Arizona to the south. Smooth brome requires a soil with good drainage and will tolerate moderately alkaline conditions, but it is not well suited to seeding in sagebrush areas. It is best adapted to seedings in forested zones or in irrigated pastures.

Is it important? Smooth brome is very important. It is a very palatable and nutritious grass. It has long been cultivated on the dry plains of Hungary and Russia. Smooth brome is grazed by all classes of livestock but is especially relished by cattle and horses.

Description:

Length of Life--Perennial.

Height--Usually $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet.

Bunch or sod--Sod forming species; often becomes sod bound.

How does it spread--Long and well developed underground rootstocks.

Leaves--Usually 5 to 10 inches long and $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. The underside of the leaf blade has veins that have a rough feeling when rubbed. The leaf sheath is generally shorter than the distance between the nodes.

Flowerhead--Open, erect, branching head (panicle); the branches somewhat spreading.

How to use it--Because this grass produces an abundance of viable seed in its younger stages and forms a sod when mature, it is used for soil conservation practices. Skid trails and landings in forested regions are often seeded after logging to a mixture of grasses containing this species. In addition, smooth brome is used alone or in mixtures with alfalfa for both hay and pasture.

Other names--Smooth brome is sometimes called common brome, Hungarian brome, awnless brome, field brome, Austrian brome, and Russian brome.

Does it look like anything else? Yes, smooth brome is sometimes confused with other large perennial brome grasses, especially mountain brome (RPL 16).

Smooth brome



Mountain brome

