

Mountain Bromegrass

(*Bromus marginatus*)



Mountain brome is one of the tallest of the native grasses and is good feed (1/3 x).

Where does it grow? This grass is found in every Oregon county. In Eastern Oregon it is mainly in the forested areas because it likes 16 inches of rain. In Western Oregon it is on nearly every roadside or waste place.

Is it important? It rarely furnishes a high percentage of feed, but it is very palatable, high yielding, seeds heavily, and is excellent forage. One strain, called Bromar, is grown as a cultivated grass and is excellent for short rotations to seed with sweet clover or red clover.

What does it look like? One of the tallest of the native grasses, with wide-spreading, attractive heads, and large seeds. Beards on the grains are so small as to be almost invisible. Leaves are wide and flat and, like most bromes, have inconspicuous hairs at base of the leaf where it separates from the stem. This is a handsome grass sometimes picked for bouquets.

Description:

Length of life--Short-lived perennial.

Height--Usually about 4 feet; sometimes 5.

Type of grass--Bunch.

Leaves--Very leafy along entire stalk. Not many leaves from base. Leaves are wide and may be a foot long. Sheath of leaf (where it clamps around the stem) is joined into a tube and is usually a little hairy, but the hairs are soft, not harsh.

Flowerhead--Under good conditions nearly a foot long. In poor conditions may consist of only 5 or 10 grains, but if moisture is plentiful 1 head may have 100 or more grains, borne in groups of 7 or 9. Heads are spreading and branched.

Seeds--Larger than most grasses, slightly hairy with very short beard that breaks off easily.



Seedhead

Does it look like any other plant? No, except other wild bromes. The tall stems, spreading seedhead, groups of seeds, wide soft leaves, usually with only a few seedheads to a plant, and the attractive brown color of the head when near maturity, are all different from other grasses.

1000-673



Extension Service, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Joseph R. Cox, director. This publication was produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties.