SMOOTH BROME
*Bromus inermis* Leyss.
Plant Symbol = BRIN2

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Plant Materials Program

Caution: This plant may become invasive. Please consult a specialist in your area.

Alternate Names
bromegrass, Austrian brome, Hungarian brome, Russian brome

Uses
*Livestock*: Smooth brome may be used for hay, pasture, or silage. It is compatible with alfalfa or other adapted legumes. The grass is highly palatable and is high in protein content and relatively low in crude-fiber content.

*Erosion Control*: Since the plant has a massive root system and is a sod former it can be used effectively for critical area planting and grassed waterways if the areas can be irrigated or where annual precipitation exceeds 20 inches.

*Wildlife*: Smooth brome can be used as a component in various upland wildlife and conservation cover mixes for nesting cover and food. *Note*: This species is no longer recommended for wildlife use in some states because of its aggressive nature.

Status
Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant’s current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values). This plant has threatened status in Michigan.

Weediness
This plant may become weedy or invasive in some regions or habitats and may displace desirable vegetation if not properly managed. Please consult with your local NRCS Field Office, Cooperative Extension Service office, or state natural resource or agriculture department regarding its status and use. Weed information is also available from the PLANTS Web site at plants.usda.gov.

Description
*Bromus inermis*, smooth brome, is a leafy, sod-forming, perennial, cool season grass that spreads by rhizomes. This species is both native and introduced. The stems vary in height from 2 to 4 feet. The plant produces numerous basal and stem leaves that vary in length from 4 to 10 inches. Frequently the leaves are marked by a transverse wrinkle resembling a “W” a short distance below the tip. The flower head develops a characteristic rich purplish-brown color when mature. The seed is produced in semi-compact 5 inch long panicles with ascending branches. The flat compressed seed is usually awnless, about 1/3 inch long, and smooth. There are approximately 136,000 seeds per pound. Smooth brome is the most widely used of the cultivated bromegrasses and has been cultivated in the U.S. since the early 1880s.

Adaptation and Distribution
Smooth brome is best adapted to cooler climates and is generally harder than tall fescue or orchardgrass. It is resistant to drought and extremes in temperature. This plant is very susceptible to disease in areas of high humidity. Smooth brome grows best on slightly...
Pests and Potential Problems
Grasshoppers and seedling blight are influences that may impede establishment. Foliar diseases are more common in humid areas and seasons. The brome grass seed midge, *Stenodiplosis bromicola*, can seriously hinder seed production.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)


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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site- [http://plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov) or the Plant Materials Program Web site- [http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov)

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