



Brachypodium sylvaticum

WA – Class A Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

False Brome

Slender False Brome, Wood False-Brome

Family: Poaceae

Origins: Native to Pakistan, Europe, Asia, North Africa, and Macronesia. It was first recorded in the U.S. as an escaped ornamental in Eugene, Oregon, in 1939.

Range: Distribution in the U.S. is limited to Washington, Oregon, and California.

Habitat: Commonly grows in woodlands, forests, riparian areas, prairies, roadsides, and forest edges.

Impact: False Brome reproduces by seeds and spreads via footwear, hiking gear, and uncleaned equipment. Dense, monotypic colonies form in forest understories and open woodlands, displacing native flora. False Brome is a threat to some endangered species, including Kincaid’s Lupine, a host plant for the endangered butterfly Fender’s Blue. Land managers of rare oak ecosystems in Oregon are particularly concerned about this species.

Description: False Brome is a perennial, loosely tufted grass with upright stems. The stems grow to about 2 feet tall with hairs at the nodes and variably along the stems. Leaf-sheaths are not fused and are typically covered with spreading hairs (though sometimes hairless) and open to the base. Leaf-blades are flat and relaxed, appearing arched or nodding, and are up to 14 inches long. Long, soft hairs sparsely cover the leaf blades. Plants often have a distinctive lime-green coloration that persists much of the year.

Flowers are grouped in somewhat upright to nodding, narrow spikes that droop noticeably. Variable hairiness is present through the flowers. They typically have little to no stalk connecting them to the main stem. Flowers bloom from June to September.

Common Look-Alikes: Native Perennial Bromes.

** False Brome is not known to be toxic.*



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed’s IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Mowing for multiple years to exhaust the seed bank and mowing as a pre-treatment to herbicide application can be effective. Small patches can be hand-pulled in the spring.
Cultural	Applying thick layers of mulch has proven to be effective at suppressing False Brome.
Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for False Brome in Washington State.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	Timing: Apply to green leaves from mid-summer to fall. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective and may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; repeat treatments may be necessary; for best results, use the appropriate surfactant; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Fluazifop (Fusilade)	Timing: Apply in spring to control seedlings, and treat established plants through summer until fall. Remarks: Two to three years of treatment will be necessary to achieve control; fine leaf fescues are tolerant to Fluazifop; native broadleaves should not be injured by Fluazifop; do not apply near water.
Hexazinone (Velpar)	Timing: Apply pre-emergence in the spring. Remarks: Hexazinone is typically used in sequence with glyphosate applied in late summer; early spring Hexazinone application controls newly germinating seedlings; Hexazinone is a restricted-use herbicide; do not apply near water.
Sethoxydim (Poast)	Timing: Apply in spring to control seedlings, and treat established plants through summer until fall. Remarks: Two to three years of treatment will be necessary to achieve control; fine leaf fescues are tolerant to Sethoxydim; native broadleaves should not be injured by Sethoxydim; do not apply near water.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.