

SMOOTH BROME

Bromos inermis



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Native to Europe, Russia and Siberia. Introduced as a pasture forage and conservation plant and widely distributed over northern U.S. Leafy, medium-sized, cool-season, long-lived, vigorous sod former. Stalks 2 to 4' tall. Leafy at base with brown scaly rhizomes. Leaves broad, flat and smooth. (natural 'M' impression imprinted near the middle on each leaf). Moderately deep roots and extensive rhizomes. Panicle seed head 4 to 8" long. Two distinct types identified: Northern adapted to western Canada and Northern Plains, and Southern, adapted to the corn belt states and central Great Plains.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives in fertile, deep silty and clayey soils in cooler sub-humid climate. Not very vigorous on

sandy and dense clay soils. Best performance in 14 to 20" ppt. but sometimes useful and naturalized along roads, in overflow and sub-irrigated areas in lower ppt. zones. Good cold tolerance and winter hardiness. Adapted 5,000 to 11,000' elevation if managed properly in central and southern Rocky Mountains, but does not persist above 9,000' in northern Rockies. Growth subsides during summer heat. Good seeding vigor.

CULTURE

Plant 1/4 – 3/4" deep on fine to coarse soils, respectively. Cover broadcast seeding to similar depth. Use 6 to 10 lbs. PLS per acre. Increase seeding rates if broadcast seeding. Mulch dry sites and steep slopes. Plant in early spring, late fall or early fall before October. Needs weed control and protection from grazing the first year.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for non-irrigated or limited irrigated pasture and hay. Used in mixtures for irrigated pastures in the Southwest. Often mixed with alfalfa for hay at higher elevations. Used for soil conservation and stabilization in grass waterways, terrace outlets, drainage ditches and roadsides. Used for mine reclamation and game preservations. Good grazing management and fertility will prevent smooth brome from becoming sod-bound and poor producer.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

- 'Achenback' released from Kansas.
- 'Barton' released from Iowa.
- 'Baylor' released from Iowa.
- 'Elsberry' released from Missouri
- 'Lancaster' released from Nebraska.
- 'Lincoln' released from Nebraska.
- 'Manchar' released from Washington.

PawneeButtesSeedInc.

PawneeButtesSeed.com 1-800-782-5947