



False Brome invasion in the Rogue River Valley
Photo © Molly Juillerate/USFS

DESCRIPTION

This perennial grass forms short, squatty bunches. Its hollow stems are 1/4 to 1/3 inch wide and bear soft, spreading hairs at the nodes (where the leaves are attached to the stems). The leaves are broad, flat, and bright green in color and remain so throughout the fall and part of winter. The margins and lower stems of the leaves are also hairy, and are open-sheathed at the base, meaning the lower part of the leaf enveloping the stem is opened. The ligules, which are the strap-shaped structures located at the junction of the sheath and the blade, are membranous. The flowers of false brome are located on short, pale-green spikelets that noticeably droop and have short or no stalks.

SIMILAR SPECIES: False brome could be confused with *Bromus* species. The distinguishing difference is that false brome has open leaf sheaths and spikelets on short stalks, while *Bromus* species have closed leaf sheaths and spikelets on long stalks.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- hairy on all surfaces
- spikelets on short stalks
- chartreuse colored squatty bunches

WHEN TO FIND FALSE BROME

False Brome can be found throughout the year.

WHERE TO FIND FALSE BROME: False brome grows primarily in coniferous forest understory, but is also habitating riparian forests, forest edges, and upland prairies.

WHAT TO DO

Hand pulling small patches is best in April and early May. Broadcast application of Poast (grass specific) or a glyphosate-based herbicide such as Roundup is effective in the mid summer through fall. To reduce the amount of herbicide used, mow for several before applying herbicide years to eliminate soil seed bank. Always follow label instructions and avoid herbicide use near water.

False Brome

Brachypodium sylvaticum

Native to North Africa and Eurasia, false brome has been quickly invading coniferous forest understories of western Oregon. It is found primarily in and around the Willamette Valley as far south as Josephine County and covers thousands of acres of Oregon State University Research Forests in Corvallis. It has the potential to spread throughout the Northwest and possibly into northern California.

False Brome reproduces by seed and can resprout from small stem or root fragments when cut. Although not confirmed, it appears that seed banks do not remain in the soil for longer than one year.

False brome displaces native understory plants, suppresses forest regeneration, degrades wildlife habitat and increases fire risk.

REFERENCES

Tu, Mandy. "Weed Alert! *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (Huds.) P. Beauv." The Nature Conservancy, January, 2005.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Guide for Common Weeds of Oregon. Available on line at:
<http://www.tbnep.org/docs/invasives/IPM%20Weed%20Control%20Guide.pdf>



False brome has hairy leaves.
(compared in photo to smooth leaves of blue wildrye)

Photo © Bruce Newhouse



Short, squatty, bunches of false brome

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