

Downy brome



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(*Bromus tectorum* L.)

Downy brome is an annual or winter annual grass that infests cropland, range and pasture, and disturbed areas. The plant grows up to 30 inches tall. Seedlings are bright green with very pubescent leaves. The foliage and seedheads change to purple and brown as the plant matures. Downy brome grows rapidly in early spring and produces seed heads from late April to early May. A single plant can produce as many as 20 tillers. Plants have 5 to 8 spikelets, which are 0.75 inch long and droop to one side.

Downy brome can displace desirable forage quickly and reduce crop yields. The plant grows in high densities and can be a ready fuel source for fires because it dries down early in the growing season. Downy brome is palatable to livestock very early in the growing season, but the long awns of the seed cause sores in the mouth and eyes. The plant is especially weedy in winter wheat.

