Early Detection Rapid Response Invasive Plant Fact Sheet: **False Brome**

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Common name: False brome
Scientific name: *Brachypodium sylvaticum*
Duration: Perennial

Characteristics: This perennial bunchgrass has bright lime green (Figure 1 and 4), flat and drooping leaf blades that are approximately 1/4 to 1/3 inch wide. Mature plants are 12 to 18 inches tall. Flowers and seed stalks droop , with spikelets attached directly to the stalks (Figures 2 and 3). Stalks and blades have tiny hairs present (Figure 5).

Treatment options

Eradication of false brome requires persistence and monitoring. Treatment options include cultural, manual, mechanical, and chemical methods. Care should be taken not to leave exposed soils after removal. In instances where the soil is exposed, mitigating the effects of erosion and sediment deposition should occur. Follow up will be essential in managing this invasive vegetation.

Cultural: False brome seeds are easily carried and dispersed by clothing, footwear, and equipment like lawnmowers or automobiles. Therefore, cleaning this equipment before leaving areas with known infestations will reduce the transfer and establishment of this invasive vegetation.

Manual: For small areas, manual removal is a very quick and effective method for controlling False brome. It is important to dig out or remove all roots. Hand digging with standard garden tools prior to the plant seeding is a practical approach.

Grazing: Prolonged, intensive grazing is an effective method of suppressing new growth while also managing other potential invasive vegetation like Himalayan blackberry.

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Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Smothering: In areas where false brome is the dominant ground cover, it may be advisable to smother the grasses to deprive them of the resources they need to survive. To accomplish this, cut the grasses down and then place cardboard on top of the treatment area. After the application of the cardboard, cover it with no less than 8 inches of mulch. The treatment area should remain this way for approximately two years before replanting efforts begin.

Chemical: For large, well-established areas of false brome and non-chemical strategies can not be reasonably employed an integrated approach is often required. Often this can include the use of herbicides, and only licensed herbicide applicators should perform this management option. In some cases, Pure Water Partners can assist with the management of false brome in riparian and other sensitive areas.

This innovative program relies on voluntary participation from community members like you. If you would like to join this critical effort, please visit our website to learn how you can become a Pure Water Partner.
www.purewaterpartners.org

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