



Downy Brome (*Bromus tectorum*)

Grass Family

Downy Brome, Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)

Grass Family

- Annual or winter annual grass rises 2 to 28 inches from a fibrous root system. Seeds germinate in late fall or early spring, and rapid spring growth produces mature seed roughly 2 months later. Seedhead is dense and drooping, and seeds range from straw-colored to purplish. Grows in solitary clumps or tufts, with light-green leaves, and membranous ligules. Leaf sheathes densely and softly hairy. Lemmas have long, soft hairs and long awns, giving the grass its “downy” appearance.
- Occurs on rangelands, roadsides, waste places, and disturbed sites. Will invade grasslands and open forests, especially on sandy or gravelly soils. A highly variable, prolific seed producer, adapted to a broad range of site conditions.
- **Early maturation and accumulation of dead above-ground material greatly increases fire hazard. Awns injure eyes and mouths of grazing livestock and wildlife.**

