

**A Conservation Plant Released by The Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington**

# 'BROMAR'

## mountain brome grass

### *Bromus marginatus* Nees ex steud.

'Bromar' mountain brome grass (*Bromus marginatus*) is a cultivar released in 1946 in cooperation with the Washington, Idaho, and Oregon Agricultural Experiment Stations at Pullman, Moscow, and Corvallis, respectively.



*Bromar mountain brome grass seed production field at the Pullman Plant Materials Center.*

#### **Description**

Bromar is a late maturing, rapidly developing, short-lived perennial bunchgrass. It is tall, growing 24 to 36 inches, leafy, and a heavy forage producer. Leaves are broad, ranging from 8-14 inches long. Bromar has a vigorous seedling stage and is early in spring recovery the second year after establishment. It also reaches maximum seed production in the second year. Its long nodding heads produce large amounts of high-quality seed. Seeds are ½ inch long with short awns. The longevity of Bromar stands is 4 to 6 years.

#### **Source**

Bromar originates from seed collected in 1933 from a Washington State College (University) planting. It was selected from 154 other accessions, collected in the Pacific Northwest, for size, biomass, maturity date and seedling vigor.

#### **Conservation Uses**

It is primarily utilized for critical area stabilization, green manure plantings, mine spoil reclamation, upland wildlife habitat, and dryland hay and pasture. It is commonly used by foresters and conservationists in plantings that require a fast-establishing plant. Bromar is one of the first perennial species to volunteer on sites ravaged by wildfires and landslides.

#### **Area of Adaptation and Use**

Mountain brome grass is native to the foothills and mountains of the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. It has been observed at elevations of 1,500 feet to over 10,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains. Bromar is adapted to areas that receive 18-30 inches of annual precipitation although it has been successfully utilized in areas that receive as little as 14 inches of annual rainfall. It performs best on deep, well-drained soils.

#### **Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings**

Bromar should not be seeded alone because it is short-lived. It can be sown with forbs, legumes, and/or other perennial grasses such as Idaho fescue, beardless wheatgrass, and big bluegrass. It recruits readily from shattered seed and stands persist longer than the original seeded plants. Dense stands of mountain brome can impede development of slower developing species so seeding rates in native mixtures should not exceed 2 Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Seed should be sown in a well-prepared, firm, weed-free seedbed in late fall or early spring at depths of ¼ inch to ½ inch. For drill seeding pure stands, the recommended rate is 10 PLS lb/A. Broadcast planting should target 40 to 60 seeds per square foot, therefore the seeding rate should be 1.5 to 2.0 times that of drill seeding.

#### **Ecological Considerations**

Tests have shown Bromar to be moderately resistant to head smut, but chemical seed treatment is recommended to prevent disease.

### **Seed and Plant Production**

Seeds may be planted as a dormant planting in the fall or in the spring into a firm, weed-free seed bed with moisture at field capacity. Seeding rate is 5 PLS pounds per acre at 36-inch row spacing. Germinating seedlings are sensitive to soil crusting so it is important to ensure the soil surface be kept moist until after emergence. Broadleaf herbicides may be applied at low rates when the grass is in the 3 to 5 leaf stage. Fertilization is not recommended during the first growing season unless a soil test shows low nutrient availability. There are approximately 80,000 seeds per pound.

### **Availability**

For conservation use: Seed is widely available on the commercial market.

For seed or plant increase: Breeder seed is maintained by the Pullman Plant Materials Center.

### **For More Information**

Pullman Plant Materials Center, 4900 SE Terre View Dr. Bldg. 195A, Pullman WA 99163, 509-330-5636  
<https://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/wapmc>



### **Citation [Insert correct information below]**

Release Brochure for Bromar mountain brome grass (*Bromus marginatus*). 2022. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center. Pullman, WA.

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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