

# Smooth Brome

## *Bromus inermis*

**Common Name:** Smooth Brome

**Scientific Name:** *Bromus inermis*

**Family:** Poaceae

### Description

Smooth brome is an important agricultural plant. It is a primary component of most hay productions. It is a persistent, nutritious hardy species that spreads through creeping rhizomes and by seed. It is known to invade undisturbed sites. Its hardiness and ability to suppress all other species by forming a thick mat of rhizomes has made it desirable for highway reconstruction projects in the past. Though not considered noxious, this species limits habitat for native species.

### Range in Yukon

Reported from every community except Old Crow; it is found along most Yukon highways and around old settlements far from roads or rivers.

### Similar Species

Pumpelly's brome (*Bromus pumpellianus*) is the native cousin of smooth brome, sometimes considered a subspecies. It has hairy flower bracts or seed casings (lemmas), unlike the hairless casings that give smooth brome its name. It is widespread throughout Yukon.

### Ecological Impact

Smooth brome forms a dense sod that smothers and excludes native species decreasing natural biodiversity. Smooth brome inhibits natural succession.

### Control

Once planted is difficult to remove. Mechanical treatment or herbicides may be required.



*Photo: Ohio State Weed Lab Archive, bugwood.org*