

False Brome

Brachypodium sylvaticum

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False Brome

Brachypodium sylvaticum



General: General: Bright yellow-green or lime bunchgrass growing 12-46 inches tall in large clumps. Spreads by seed. Grows in sun and shade, and in moist and dry soil. Self-pollinating.

Leaves: Broad ($\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide), flat, droopy leaf blades bright green in color. Remain vibrant after most other grasses and natives forbs have withered. Distinct hairs cover all parts of plant giving plant a velvety feel. Visible hairs protrude from the edge of the leaf as well as leaf surfaces.

Flowers: Tiny. Hang from hairy spikelets. Present only for a very short period in early summer. Have the appearance of a very small dog bone. Spikelets hang tangentially from and are directly attached to flower/seed stalk.

Fruit: Small seeds from spikelets in summer.

Notes: False brome has two characteristics that when combined distinguish it from other grasses. The first is the small hairs or “fuzz” giving the plant its hairy look and velvety feel. Second, the spikelets are completely stalkless; they are attached directly to the seed/flower stem.

Impacts: False brome can dominate the ground cover in both densely forested and open habitats, driving out native plants and creating a monoculture. It also has low forage value.