

Plant: Downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*) aka Cheatgrass.

This is not a state listed noxious weed.

Identification: Downy brome is a winter annual grass that can grow up to 20 inches tall. They have erect stems, leaves with numerous small hairs on them, and drooping seed heads. Being a winter annual, seeds typically germinate in late fall, and spend the winter as young seedlings, then shoot up in early spring. Cheatgrass reproduces by seed and is dispersed by the wind, typically as the seeds start to turn purple. It is typically found in overgrazed pastures, wasteland, sagebrush habitats, roadsides, and open dry areas. It can be grazed in early spring while still green with some nutritional value, but once it dries out it loses all nutritional value and becomes non-palatable.

Defense: The best line of defense is to keep your pastures and other areas healthy with good perennial vegetation. There are chemicals to combat this weed. Contact your local county weed superintendent to form a management plan.

Always read and understand the label and restrictions of any pesticide you are using. The label IS the law.

