

KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

growth Annual, densely tufted, 5-60 cm tall. At maturity, the plant has a reddish-purple color.

stems Tufted, mostly erect, or spreading; not branched.

leaves In seedling stage, blades and sheaths densely soft-hairy. Blades 5-12 cm long, 1-7 mm wide; flat, hairy or not. Sheaths closed and hairy.

ligule Membranous and short, 3mm. →

Inflorescence Dense, slender, drooping, one-sided, and 5-15 cm long. Awns are purple at maturity and measure 12 to 14 mm long. Spikelets numerous, hairy, narrow (3/8 to 3/4 inches long), on slender curved threadlike branches. Each has 3 to 7 florets.

lemma Toothed, 9 to 12 mm, lanceolate, and covered with long soft hairs.

note

As the heads develop, downy brome becomes easily identifiable because the plants have a silvery sheen and, as they mature, become reddish-purplish.

B. tectorum matures 1 to 2 weeks earlier than other annual bromes.



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Elevation:
4000-10000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Scrublands, desertlands, grasslands, montane riparian, woodlands & forests.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Downy brome thrives under dry conditions. Found in salt-desert shrub communities that receive 6 inches annually and in high-elevation coniferous forests that exceed 25 inches of annual rain.

Common on deep sandy soils associated with extensive big sagebrush stands, on flat uplands and valley bottoms in mountain and foothill areas.

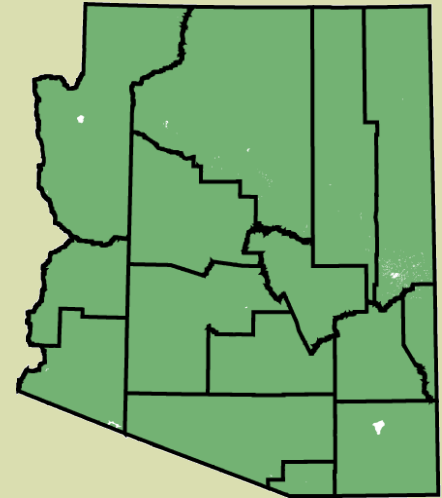
Common habitats include overgrazed range, abandoned farmlands, around farm & ranch buildings, railroads and roadsides.

Fall rye can be confused with downy brome in the seedling stage because both plants are purplish. However, fall rye has auricles whereas *B. tectorum* **does not have auricles**. (Auricles look like small hooks that encircle the stem at the base of the leaf blade).

B. tectorum is distinguishable from other annual (*B. secalinus*, *B. racemosus*, *B. japonicus*) and perennial (*B. inermis*) species of *Bromus* by its slender stems, hairy leaves, and the long-awned (bristly) spikelets on twisted branches.



SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.