

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Annual grasses up to 10 inches tall.

Inflorescence

A dense, bristly spike up to 4 inches long with awns ¼-1 inch long. Each spikelet has one flower and the spikelets are grouped in threes at each node and separate at maturity as a unit. The middle flower is sessile, the two outer ones are stalked, and usually unisexual.

Glumes narrow or awl shaped; lemmas with back turned towards rachis, rounded, obscurely nerved, tapering into awn. Awns can be very injurious to grazing animals.

leaves

Leaf blades are 1/16 - 3/16 inches wide, flat and smooth to hairy.

auricles

Auricles at base of blade are well developed (also paper thin).

note

This complex includes *Hordeum murinum* ssp. *glaucum*, ssp. *leporinum* and ssp. *murinum*.



flower color

Elevation:
900- 9000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Scrublands, desertlands, grasslands, non-riparian wetlands, riparian,
woodlands & forests.

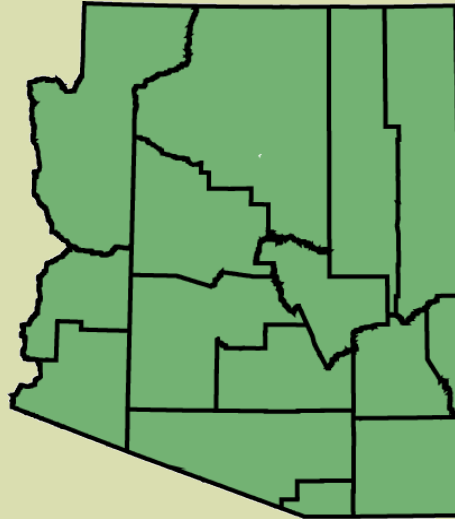
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Dense stands may increase fire frequency and intensity though this species is not promoted by fire. It competes successfully for light, water, and nutrients due to its ability to start growth early in the season.

Hordeum thrives in ruderal habitats and can become dominant over native plants, particularly where livestock is grazed and where soil nitrogen is high.

Associated with grazing and human habitation, it can establish in the absence of disturbance.

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.



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