



## Cheatgrass

*Bromus tectorum*



### Cheatgrass

#### General

Family: Grass (Poaceae)  
Introduced from Europe  
Colorado List C - Control recommended

#### Common names

Downy brome

#### Habitat

Annual to winter annual  
Found in rangelands, pastures, open areas, roadsides and disturbed areas  
One of the first grasses to emerge in early spring  
Dries quickly and can be a fire hazard

### PLANT

#### Vegetation

Mature plants up to 2 feet tall  
Leaves about 1/8 inch wide and up to 8 inches long  
Covered with soft hairs  
Turns red late in season

#### Roots

Fibrous  
Up to 12 inches deep

#### Flower

May-June  
Nodding panicles to 8 inches long

#### Seed

Germinates in fall through early spring  
Attaches easily to shoes and clothing

#### Seedling

Bright green

#### Reproduction

Seed

## CONTROL – CHEMICAL

Timing	Herbicide	Notes
Late Fall to Late Winter Seedling stage	Glyphosate (various) Imazapic (Plateau)	Use of a surfactant is recommended for most herbicides to help increase contact with the vegetation and to facilitate herbicide uptake. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant.
Pre-emergent June-Aug	Indaziflam (Rejuvra)	Treating at the rosette and pre-bolt stage stops weeds from using resources that desirable plants need to prosper.  Refer to the individual label for allowed sites, specific timing, and restrictions about grazing and haying.  For established populations, control will take a few years so treatment may need to be repeated.

## CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL

Technique	Timing	Method
<b>Biological</b>	N/A	
<b>Burning</b>	Late winter to Early spring	Prior to seed development Cheatgrass burns readily but follow-up herbicide treatment and revegetation is needed. <u>Cheatgrass can create a heightened fire risk.</u> Burning may not be allowed so check with your local fire protection district for current restrictions.
<b>Cultivation</b>	Spring to Fall Young plants without flower heads	May need to be repeated throughout the season and on an annual basis until the seedbank is exhausted. May allow more seeds to germinate due to disturbance.
<b>Grazing</b>	Late Winter	Short term, focused intense grazing prior to boot stage (before the plants start to form flower buds) and then again 3-4 weeks later. Animals will not graze once the seedheads develop. Heavy grazing and disturbances near water, salt, and loafing areas will increase seedlings due to disturbance.
<b>Mowing</b>	N/A	Not effective. Plants will regrow and still set seed.
<b>Prevention</b>	Anytime	Maintain the health of the site by encouraging healthy stands of grass.
<b>Removal</b>	Fall to Late Winter	Remove young plants before the boot stage (before the plants start to form flower buds).
	Spring to Early Summer Flowering	Remove, bag, and dispose of in the trash or landfill. Once the plants turn tan it is too late to remove because the seed has already dropped, leaving the empty, dried flowerhead behind.
	Pulling when plants are small results in less bulk and makes disposal easier. Pulling will disturb the soil so it may contribute to more of the seedbank to germinate.	

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products. 7/2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chemical Pre-emerge*												
Chemical Post-emerge**												
Plant Removal	Bag any plants with flowers and put into the trash											
Cultivation		Plants without flowers										

\* Apply pre-emergence herbicides prior to seed germination. If any seed has germinated, add a post-emergence herbicide.

\*\* Apply post-emergence herbicides to young plants before they form seed.