

## Seed Availability

Foundation seed of Bromar is available through the Washington State Crop Improvement Association. Seed growers interested in producing Certified Bromar seed need to apply for Foundation seed through the Washington State Crop Improvement Association. Registered Class is recognized as well. Seed growers need to apply with the Washington State Department of Agriculture which will determine if the field meets isolation distance requirements and previous crop requirements. Certified seed is available through many private seed companies. Breeder seed is maintained by the Pullman Plant Materials Center.



*Photograph of 'Bromar' Mountain Brome and Yellow Sweet Clover trials being harvested in 1937.*

## For More Information

Visit our Plant Materials Web site at <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/> to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

### USDA NRCS

Pullman Plant Materials Center  
P.O. Box 646211  
Pullman WA 99164-6211  
Phone: (509) 335-6892  
Fax: (509) 335-2940

Or

### WSCIA Foundation Seed Program

P.O. Box 646420  
Pullman WA 99164-6420  
Phone: (509) 335-4365

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## 'Bromar' Mountain Brome



**A quality conservation plant  
developed by the USDA NRCS  
Pullman Plant Materials Center,  
Pullman, Washington**

*Helping People Help the Land*

# 'Bromar' Mountain Bromegrass

'Bromar' Mountain Bromegrass (*Bromus marginatus*) is a late-maturing, rapid-developing, short-lived perennial bunchgrass. It is a tall, leafy, heavy forage producer. Its long nodding heads produce large amounts of high quality seed that give rise to vigorous seedlings. Bromar originates from seed collected in 1933 from a Washington State College (University) planting. Synthetic fertilizers were not readily available at the time and fast growing plants like Bromar were needed to replenish the soil with nutrients and improve tilth. Bromar, more recently, has become an important soil stabilizing plant. Foresters and reclamationists commonly use Bromar in plantings that require a fast establishing plant.

## Uses

The primary uses of Bromar include:

- Critical area stabilization
- Green manure plantings
- Mine spoil reclamation
- Upland wildlife habitat
- Dryland hay and pasture

## Description

Bromar Mountain Bromegrass attains a stem height of 24 to 36 inches. The leaves are long and broad, ranging from 8 – 14 inches long.

Seeds are ½ inch in length with awns less than ¼ inch in length. There are approximately 80,000 seeds per pound. Its longevity is 4 – 6+ years.

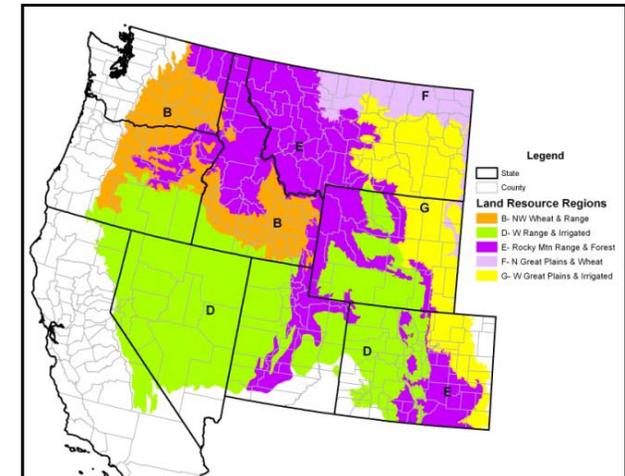
## Adaptation

Bromar Mountain Bromegrass is an important native grass of the foothills and mountains of the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains. It is one of the first perennial species to volunteer on sites ravaged by wildfires and landslides. Mountain bromegrass grows from an elevation of 1,500 feet to over 10,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains. Bromar is best adapted to areas that receive 18-30 inches of annual rainfall. However, it has been successfully used in areas that receive as little as 14 inches of annual rainfall. It performs best on well-drained, deep soils. Bromar tolerates acidic soil conditions and is one of the better performing plants for reclaiming hard rock mine spoils. Bromar performed better than 69 other accessions of mountain bromegrass in the early selection trials conducted at Pullman, Washington. Bromar was developed for compatible maturity with sweetclover and low incidence of head smut. Bromar competes well with most annual weeds. Perennial broadleaf weeds such as Canada thistle and field bindweed must be controlled, they will severely impact Bromar. Biomass (forage) production of Bromar varies with rainfall, age of the stand, and soil fertility. Hay yields of 1 - 2.5 ton per acre are typical.

## Establishment

Bromar should not be seeded alone because it is short-lived. It can be sown with forbs, legumes, and/or other perennial grasses such as Idaho Fescue, Beardless Wheatgrass, and Big Bluegrass. It recruits readily from shattered seed and stands persist longer than the original seeded plants. Dense stands can impede development of slower growing species so no more than 2 pounds per acre. Bromar should be used in seed mixes.

## Proposed Use Areas



*Bromar grows well throughout most of the western states. The shaded areas are the primary areas for its intended use.*