

Meadow Bromegrass

A perennial bunchgrass with fibrous roots and short, stout rhizomes.

Re-vegetation Series:

This is a series of fact sheets on plants being used as trials on berms, roadways, and pipelines. Trials as well as demos are done on several locations in the B.C. Peace Region.

Description:

- Stems grow 2-4 feet (~61-122 cm) tall.
- Seed heads are purplish spikelets with 5 to 10 cross-pollinated flowers.
- Both the leaves and shafts have long, sparse hairs.
- Growing points remain near the ground throughout the growing season.

Habitat/Climate:

- Widely adapted to different soils, but prefers sandy, silty and clay soils that are well drained.



	Meadow Bromegrass	Points to Consider
Most Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasture • Hay • Stockpile grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be grazed repeatedly over the season • Maintains its quality well during the fall, winter and spring
Optimal Grazing Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the plant reaches 20 to 30 cm (8 to 12 in) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early grazed or cut meadow bromegrass can be stockpiled for fall, winter or spring grazing
Forage Yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	
Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low weed resistance with new seedlings, but improves as stand becomes established
Hardiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low flooding tolerance • High drought tolerance • High winter hardiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly less salinity tolerance than smooth bromegrass • Recovers quickly from drought, with brown leaves becoming green as soon as moisture is available • Drought tolerance may not be dependable in areas of low precipitation
Use in Seed Mixture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding rate of 9 lbs per acre is recommended • Can be seeded with legumes such as alfalfa, red clover and alsike clover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeds are very long and awned, which causes bridging in seed drills • Surface broadcasting without soil incorporation is not effective
Common Varieties in the Peace Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleet 	

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Smooth Bromegrass

A high-yielding, cold hardy, long-lasting, creeping perennial grass.



Description:

- Sod-forming perennial that spreads by underground rhizomes.
- Stems grow 2-4 feet (~61-122 cm) high. Seeds are long and narrow and the roots are deep, fine and fibrous.
- Seed heads are erect panicles with slightly descending branches that have 7 to 10 flowers on them.
- Forms a distinctive “W” or “M” leaf constriction near the middle of the upper leaf surface (shown in photo).

Habitat/Climate:

- Grows best in deep silt loams.
- Can perform on light sand or clay soils with lots of nitrogen and at least 14 inches of rain
- Has good salt tolerance and is one of the only species of grass that is able to establish in saline areas often found in the Peace Region.



	Smooth Bromegrass	Points to Consider
Most Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass for Hay • Roadside site rehabilitation and erosion control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regrowth for grazing is poor • Invasive nature
Optimal Grazing Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good early season grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow to recover after cutting or grazing
Forage Yield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the highest yielding grasses
Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included as an Invasive, Noxious and Problem Plant of BC • Can become invasive on upland range and wetland areas
Hardiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High drought tolerance • High resistance rating to weeds • Very cold hardy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good shade tolerance, but competes with other plants in the mixture • Less tolerant to drought than crested wheatgrass, but more tolerant than either orchardgrass or timothy
Use in Seed Mixture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often seeded with alfalfa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May cause bridging problems when seeding • Not a good candidate for stock-piling as it does not maintain its feed quality over the winter
Common Varieties in the Peace Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlton 	



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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