

Smooth Brome

Key Features

Description

Smooth brome grass is a leafy, sod-forming perennial grass best suited for hay, silage, and early spring pasture, especially on well-drained soils. It spreads by underground rhizomes and through seed dispersal.

Because of its highly developed root system, smooth brome grass is resistant to temperature extremes and drought. It grows best on deep, well-drained silt or clay loam but may also establish itself in sandier soils. The forage quality of smooth brome grass is higher than that of most other cool-season grasses such as orchardgrass or tall fescue; crude protein levels in smooth brome grass often exceed 12 percent if it is harvested in the boot stage.

The presence of a w-shaped watermark midway between the collar and the tip of the leaf blade is an identifying characteristic .

Applications

Rotational Grazing
Silage
Dry Hay

Planting Time

Spring
Summer
Fall

Establishment and Management Keys

Strengths

High spring yield; winter hardy; sod-forming; leafy summer regrowth; good drought survival; best on fertile, well-drained soils.

Limitations

Difficult to drill unless mixed with something like oats; susceptible to damage when cut or grazed in jointing stage; not tolerant of frequent cutting; poor summer regrowth; susceptible to leaf diseases.



Characteristics

Dry Hay	5
Persistence	5
Forage Quality	3
Baleage	3
Silage	5

Scale 1-5 (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent)

Seeding Rate

New Seeding - 13-20 lbs/acre
Overseeding - lbs/acre

Seeding Depth

