

Bromus tectorum

COMMON NAME

cheatgrass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Bromus tectorum L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

BROTEC

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small, green to bluish-green, annual grass to 20–90 cm tall. All parts softly hairy. **Stems** slender, erect or spreading. **Leaves** 30–160 × 2–4 mm, flat, velvety; emerging leaf rolled; sheath tubular, soon splitting, usually with purplish tinge. **Ligule** 2–5 mm long, membranous, frayed, whitish. **Seeding stem** to 1 m long, drooping to one side; panicle dense, soft, usually purplish. **Seed spikelets** narrow, 20–35 mm long (incl awns 10–17 mm), 2–3 mm wide. **Seeds** narrow, Spring–Summer.

SIMILAR TAXA

Shorter than *B. hordeaceus*, and has taller narrower spikelets.

FLOWERING

April–May

FRUITING

May–June

YEAR NATURALISED

1870

ORIGIN

Mediterranean, Europe, N Asia

ETYMOLOGY

bromus: From the ancient Greek word bromos, referring to a kind of oat

Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

Life Cycle Comments

Annual

Seed

Seeds long and narrow, bearing long beard 12–19 mm. (Wax, Fawcett, Isley eds. 1981).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Wax LM, Fawcett RS, Isley D, eds. 1981. Weeds of the North Central States. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agriculture, Illinois, USA. 303 p.



Otago, Shotover River. Jan 1992. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bromus-tectorum/>