

Bromus species –

# AN INVASIVE CHALLENGE IN SPRING WHEAT



Globally there are more than 100 different species of Bromus, known by a wide range of local and regional names. For wheat growers in North Dakota and Montana, Japanese brome, true cheat and downy brome are three of the most problematic Bromus species.

The infestation of Bromus species in cereals has increased in the last decade, says Kevin Thorsness, Bayer CropScience technical service representative. “In the 1990’s downy brome was mainly found in the far western and southwestern counties of North Dakota,” says Thorsness. “By 2005, it has been found throughout the state.”

Bromus species in North Dakota:

■ 1990’s ■ 2002 ■ 2009

Downy brome does well in reduced- and zero-tillage



Source: Kevin Thorsness, Bayer CropScience

Japanese brome, true cheat, and downy brome (also known as cheatgrass) are annual grasses that can germinate in the fall or spring. Once they invade CRP ground, rangeland, prairies and cereal fields, they have the potential to become highly competitive and difficult to manage, says Thorsness.

Bromus species spread through their seeds. The plant roots are shallow, and effectively siphon soil moisture away from the deeper-rooted cereal crop. Besides yield reduction, Bromus species cause crop lodging and harvest complications in the cereal crops.

Identification is key to managing diverse bromus species

With many different regionalized names such as cheatgrass, the various Bromus species are often confused, according to Steve King, technical service representative for Bayer CropScience.

**“Careful scouting and proper identification of which Bromus species is present in the field is the key to selecting the best herbicide.”**

- Steve King

Tough weeds and tougher herbicide protection

Weeds continually evolve and change right along with new practices and technologies. Wheat growers with new challenges from Bromus species, Persian dandelion and ACC-ase resistant wild oats have a new solution. Rimfire Max offers broad-spectrum activity on more than 30 tough-to-handle grasses and broadleaf weeds. Tankmixing with Huskie herbicide allows one-pass weed control for many major weed challenges.

  
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