

Slender False Brome

(*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)



Overview:

Slender false brome is a highly invasive bunch grass native to Eurasia and North Africa. It grows up to 2.5 ft. tall, has a graceful, nodding form and bright green color that it retains into the fall. It rapidly reproduces from seed to form dense monocultures, and is not rhizomatous.



Photo credit WNY PRISM.



Habitat:

Slender false brome is found in open grasslands and forest understories. It grows in habitats ranging from full sun to full shade, disturbed or undisturbed and is common along hiking and deer trails. This species seems to prefer soils that are not extremely wet or extremely dry.

Identification:

Stems: The lower stem and nodes are covered in tiny hairs.

Leaves: Floppy, flat leaves arch out from the plant. Leaves are 5-12 mm wide with hairy leaf margins. The leaf sheath is open at the top and hairy.

Flowers: This plant has a drooping inflorescence. The spikelets are arranged in a true spike because they have no stalk at the base. The flowers have long awns that are 7-15 mm. Slender false brome begins flowering in July and mature spikelets can be seen into the fall.



Hairy lower stems and nodes.



Hairy leaf sheath and hairy leaf margin.



Spikelets with long awned flowers.

Comparison to similar species:



Slender False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)

Flat leaves 5-12 mm wide. Leaves are sparsely hairy on both sides. Leaf sheath margin is not overlapping at the top, and is hairy.



Photo credit WNY PRISM.



Photo credit Keir Morse. calphotos.berkeley.edu

Spikelets have no stalk with 6-16 florets per spike. Awns 7-15 mm. Flowers July to August.



Photo credit WNY PRISM.



Photo credit Keir Morse. calphotos.berkeley.edu

Bearded Shorthusk (*Brachyelytrum erectum*)

Flat leaves 11-17 mm wide. Hairs present on lower surface of leaf. Leaf sheath margin is not overlapping at the top, and is hairy.



Photo credit Peter M. Dziuk. www.minnesotawildflowers.info



Spikelets are short-stalked with one floret per spikelet. Awns 13-20 mm. Flowers June to August.



Photo credit Peter M. Dziuk. www.minnesotawildflowers.info



Hairy Woodland Brome (*Bromus pubescens*)

Flat or slightly rolled leaves 6-15 mm wide. Leaves can be hairy or hairless. Leaf sheath margin is overlapping at the top, and is hairy.



Photo credit www.illinoiswildflowers.info



Photo credit G. D. Bebeau. www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org

Spikelets are long-stalked with 5-10 florets per spikelet. Awns 3-8 mm. Flowers May to July.



Photo credit G. D. Bebeau. www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org



Photo credit www.illinoiswildflowers.info