



WNY PRISM

Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species

Best Management Practices: Slender False Brome

Slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) is a perennial grass found in open grasslands and forest understories. It is commonly found along hiking trails, deer trails and rights of way. Slender false brome forms bright green clumps and has tiny hairs present on leaves, lower stems and nodes.

Slender false brome spreads primarily by seed, which is transported by deer and people (boots, ATVs, mowers). Each plant can produce hundreds of seeds, and long awns allow it to be easily transported. It produces flowers in late June/early July and forms mature seed shortly after. Mature spikelets can be seen into the fall.

Research has shown seeds maintain viability in the soil for 2-3 years, but it is currently unknown how long individual plants live in the invaded range. Slender false brome is not typically eaten by wildlife or livestock and can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. This plant quickly forms large, dense monocultures that outcompete native species.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an adaptive approach to invasive species management that involves the selection of multiple control methods and appropriate timing to meet the needs of each specific site and species. The goal is to maximize effective control and to minimize any potential negative impacts.

Management efforts should begin with an invasive species survey and site assessment. This allows for the development of a management plan and selection of appropriate removal methods. Management for most well-established species and/or infestations will require dedication over a number of years, often 3-5. Once initial control is achieved, restoration and continued monitoring will be required to maintain success.



Best Management Practices: Slender False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)

Management

Manual

Individual plants and small infestations may be removed manually, but care must be taken to dig up the entire root mass. Excessive manual removal can cause significant damage to the soil and native plant communities.

Mechanical

Mechanical methods such as cutting or mowing can reduce seed production but will not eliminate the infestation. Mechanical methods are best used in tandem with other methods, such as chemical removal, or as a means to suppress seed production and slow spread while additional control efforts are planned.

Chemical

Herbicides, such as glyphosate, are very effective for slender false brome control and may be applied using foliar application methods. Apply herbicide in mid to late June, before plants form mature flowers and seed. Foliar spraying may be combined with mowing. Mow when flowers start to emerge, to prevent seed set, and apply herbicide 3-4 weeks after mowing. Management should be planned for 2-4 years.

Spread Prevention

Cleans mowers before and after use. Mow non-infested areas before those infested with slender false brome and mow as low to the ground as possible.

Disposal

Plant material may be bagged in black plastic and placed in the sun to solarize for no less than 3 weeks to ensure seed is less likely to remain viable.

Restoration

Restoration efforts should take place after the slender false brome infestation has been effectively managed (populations down to levels appropriate for manual removal, seed bank depleted) and may include the planting of native species including grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees.

USE PESTICIDES WISELY: Always read the entire pesticide label carefully and follow all instructions. Pesticide regulations can vary widely between regions; please contact local authorities for additional pesticide use requirements, restrictions or recommendations. Mention of pesticide products by WNY PRISM does not constitute endorsement of any material.



Photos Front: Top- slender false brome infestation; Middle- close up flower; Bottom (left to right)- manual removal, foliar spraying, site survey and assessment.

Photos Back: Genesee County Park and Forest restoration; Top - Slender false brome infestation pre-treatment; Bottom- post-treatment, mechanical on left, herbicide on right.

Additional Resources

Great Lakes Slender False Brome Working Group

www.wnyprism.org/projects/slenderfalsebrome



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