Grazing bromegrass

Scientific name(s)

*Bromus stamineus* (grazing brome)

Two similar perennial spp. are included in cultivar list below:
*Bromus coloratus* (coloured brome)
*Bromus valdivianus* (pasture brome)

NB See separate Fact sheet re *Bromus uniloides* (prairie grass)

Strengths

- Good winter growth.
- Drought tolerant.
- Tolerant of continuous grazing, heavy stocking, low soil fertility and some insect pests

Limitations

- Not suited to poorly drained/heavy textured soils

Plant description

- **Plant**: perennial, prostrate growth habit
- **Stem**: up to 800 mm
- **Leaves**: small-medium, fine leaf, densely covered in fine hair. No auricle or ligule
- **Seedhead**: Open and branched, up to 200 mm long, drooping
- **Seeds**: Large; awns usually > 5 mm

Pasture type and use

* B *stamineus* is a versatile perennial pasture grass; fine leaved and finely tillered

Where it grows

- **Rainfall**: > 550 mm
- **Soils**: Light/medium textured; pH 5.5-7.
- **Temperature**: 5-30°C

Establishment

- **Companion species**
  - **Grasses**: cocksfoot, phalaris, tall fescue
  - **Legumes**: sub. and white clover
**Herbs:** plantain

**Sowing/planting rates as single species**

25 kg/ha; sow at 5-15 mm and roll; de-awned seed is available for easier sowing. Sensitive to sowing deep

**Sowing/planting rates in mixtures**

15 kg/ha

**Sowing time**

When soil temp. >10°C. Autumn, or early spring in long growing seasons. Sensitive to cold if sown late autumn/winter.

**Inoculation**

Not applicable.

**Fertiliser**

Correct any nutrient deficiencies, especially N, P

**Management**

**Maintenance fertiliser**

For optimum growth Olsen soil P > 15; but tolerates low fertility

**Grazing/cutting**

Requires hard, frequent grazing and is suited to heavy stocking/continuous grazing; maintain below 25 cm for optimal quality. Do not use for silage/hay.

**Seed production**

Commercial crops yield up to 2.7 t/ha in New Zealand. [Bromus coloratus yields approximately 1t/ha, Tasmania]

**Ability to spread**

Will spread from seed

**Weed potential**

Establishment dependant on absence of competition.

**Major pests**

Seedlings damaged by red legged earthmite, blue oat mite and lucerne flea. Tolerant of NZ grass grub, argentine stem weevil [B coloratus tolerant of scarabs]

**Major diseases**

Few records available for these relatively new species.

**Herbicide susceptibility**

glyphosate

**Animal production**

**Feeding value**

High; relatively high protein content

**Palatability**

Good, including seedhead, provided it is not allowed to become rank.

**Production potential**

Good cool season vigour
Livestock disorders/toxicity

No endophyte. No toxins.

Cultivars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>Seed source/Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Bromus stamineus</em></td>
<td>Grasslands Gala 🟢</td>
<td>PGG Seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bromus valdivianus</em></td>
<td>Barenos 🟢</td>
<td>Heritage Seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bromus coloratus</em></td>
<td>Exceltas 🟢</td>
<td>TasGlobal Seeds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Denotes that this variety is protected by Plant Breeder's Rights Australia

Further information

NSW Department of Primary Industries - Perennial brome grasses Primefact 383

Acknowledgements

Dr Alan Stewart, PGG Seeds. DsPI.

Author and date

KFM Reed, July 8th 2008