

Nodding Brome Grass

Nomenclature

	Registered Names	previous ACIMS Names
Scientific Name	<i>Bromus porteri</i>	<i>Bromus anomalous</i>
Common Name	Porter's brome	nodding brome grass

ACIMS = Alberta Conservation Information Management System

Species Description. A bunchgrass up to 60 cm (23⁵/₈ inches) tall with a nodding inflorescence. Nodding brome has a closed sheath, is hairy at its nodes, and produces leaf blades which are 2 to 4 mm (¹/₁₆ to ¹/₈ inches) wide, drooping, and sometimes hairy. Glumes have 3 to 5 nerves. Lemmas are uniformly hairy over their entire surface (Moss,1994; Tannas, 2003).



Species Ecology. The plant is frequent in the central parkland and foothills where it is found as a small component of grassland communities. Nodding brome prefers moist grassland soils.

Species Agronomy. For agricultural production, seed at 1,000 seeds/m² for good coverage and establishment; this is a seeding rate of 37 kg/ha, or 33 lbs/acre (3.71 g per 1,000 seed weight). Seed no deeper than 1.2 cm (¹/₂ inch). Twenty-centimeter row (⁷/₈"") spacing will produce an open canopy. This species is adapted to low nutrient soils, though specific nutrient requirements are unknown. No fertilizer or soil amendments are recommended. A plot of nodding brome may partially go to seed in its first year, with full yields realized in the second and subsequent years. An average yield of 157 kg/ha (140 lbs/acre) is usual in the second and subsequent years. nodding brome will typically live for at least five years. Nodding brome should be ready for straight combining around the 25th of July.

No herbicides have been proven safe for use on nodding brome crops. If broadcast spraying, employ herbicides intended for use on forage grasses, ensure the crop is at the five-leaf stage or later, and test the herbicide on a small area before applying to the entire crop. Spot spray non-selective herbicides within plots for control of rhizomatous weedy grasses.

Revegetation Uses. This species can add taxonomic diversity and resilience to a native grass community when included as a small-percentage component in a seed mix. As a bunchgrass which does not spread, this species lends itself to horticultural applications. Nodding brome is a good forage grass if cut/grazed early in the season.

Market. In 2018, common nodding brome was sold in Alberta for \$24.20 per kg (\$11 per pound).

Bibliography

Moss, E.H., 1994. Flora of Alberta. Second edition. University of Toronto Press. 600 pp.

Tannas, K., 2003. Common Range Plants of the Western Rangelands. Volume 1. Grasses, Grass-like species., Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. 356 pp.