

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT: Ripgut Brome

A **Containment Priority** Species in the Sonoran Desert Cooperative Weed Management Area (Pima County, AZ)

This non-native annual grass forms dense stands and becomes very dry and flammable during the dry season, displacing native species and increasing wildfire frequency. Increased wildfire frequency can lead to conversion to grassland. Brome seeds may spread great distances via water and soil movement and by clinging to animals and people. Mature plants are unpalatable to cattle and as the common name suggests, can cause possible damage if consumed. It can be very difficult to eradicate once it is established. Ripgut brome is not on the current State of Arizona noxious weed list, but has been proposed as a 2023 addition to the list.

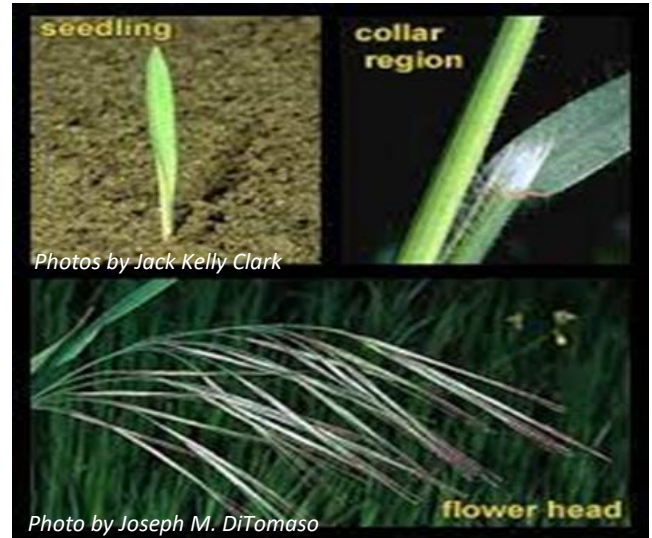
Identification: (*Bromus diandrus*) Cool season annual bunchgrass, up to 3' tall with hairy, rough leaves about ½" wide. The inflorescence is purplish when ripe. It is wide and drooping yet appears very spiky because of the long, straight (1¼"–2 ½") awns. The seedlings have a tubular sheath. Typically flowers March-June. ([SEINet](#))

Distribution in Pima County: Limited – mostly found in riparian areas in the desert or lower montane areas, roadsides, or disturbed areas; up to 6,600 feet. (See [EDDMaps](#), [SEINet](#) for current data)

Commonly Mistaken Grasses: Red brome (*Bromus rubens*); wild oats (*Avena fatua*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)

How you can help: A mapping campaign is underway to improve documentation and monitoring of ripgut brome trends in Pima County. Please help us by reporting ripgut brome observations at <https://www.eddmaps.org/>.

Or join the [Arizona Native Plant Society-US Forest Service Catalina riparian invasive weed spray program](#).



Treatment Options for Ripgut Brome

METHOD	SEASON
Cultural	
Prevention measures are the most effective way to reduce the impacts of invasive species. This plant is easily spread by people on clothing, boots, equipment and vehicles. People working with or around ripgut brome should be very cognizant and take care to not spread seeds. Avoid walking in areas covered in dry ripgut brome plants. Decontaminate boots, pants, gloves, tools, and anything that enters ripgut brome area.	
Biological. There are no established biocontrol agents for the weedy bromes.	
Mechanical	
Mowing. Mowing/weed-eating is not usually recommended but can reduce seed production if conducted shortly after flower initiation and before seeds mature. Plants cut earlier will regrow. Plants should be mowed to about 2 inches with the bolting stems removed. Repeated mowing (every 3 weeks) can eliminate seed production in areas where herbicide applications are unacceptable.	Late March to early April. Do not mow once seedheads have started to form.
Hand Pulling. Small infestations can be hand pulled before seeds are ripe, preferably when seeds are hanging but while they still contain a milky substance.	Early spring.
Chemical	
<i>Misuse of any herbicide can be harmful to the user and the environment. Always read and follow the instructions on the product label before purchasing and applying a herbicide to treat invasive plants. The label is the law.</i>	
Foliar. Aquatic formulations of glyphosate (RoundUp Custom, Rodeo etc.) rate: 3% active ingredient.	Postemergence in early spring to rapidly growing, non-stressed plants after most seedlings have emerged.

Table: This information above was compiled by invasive plant experts participating in the [Sonoran Desert Cooperative Weed Management Area](#) based on the best available information as of January 2023.

Reported Distribution and Modeled Habitat Suitability of **Ripgut Brome** (*Bromus diandrus*) in Pima County, Arizona

