

Downy Brome

Tier 2

Overview

Downy Brome is an aggressive, grassy weed. Its presence in the southwest and its ability to infect many habitats makes it a threat to winter and spring cereals, dryland hayfields, pastures, and rangelands.

Habitat

Downy brome occurs throughout southern Manitoba, especially on sandy or gravelly soils, in poor pastures, roadsides, embankments, and waste places.

Identification

Downy Brome is an annual grass that typically germinates in the fall and overwinters as a small seedling. Plants resume growth early in the spring. Downy Brome is easily distinguished from other grasses in the seedling stage by its very hairy leaves. Downy Brome can be confused with fall rye in the seedling stage as both plants are purplish in colour, but fall rye has small hooks, called auricles that encircle the stem at the base of the leaf blade. Downy Brome does not have auricles.

