

Fact Sheet

SHARP BROS. SEED CO.



Healy, KS (800) 462-8483

Greeley, CO (970) 356-4710

Clinton, MO (660) 885-7551

Smooth Brome

SMOOTH BROME is a major, cool-season, long-lived, perennial, sod forming grass, which reproduces from seed and spreads by creeping rhizomes. A native grass of Europe and Asia, Brome was introduced into the U.S. in the 1880's.

FACTS ABOUT SMOOTH BROME:

- **Smooth Brome grows erect with seed heads six to eight inches long.**
- **Strong root systems form a coarse, dense sod, which resists tramping, affords abundant grazing and serves as an anchor for soil when faced with wind and water erosion.**
- **It has a leafy spring growth that is both palatable and nutritious for livestock.**
- **Slender Wheatgrass is alkali tolerant (up to 8.8 pH).**
- **There are two identifiable types: Northern Smooth Brome which is adapted to western Canada and the northern Great Plains, and Southern Smooth Brome which is adapted to the Corn Belt States and central Great Plains.**



ADAPTATIONS:

A grass for the plain states that have sections of higher rainfall and cooler summers, Brome has been used extensively for pastures and also as a hay crop. It grows best on deep silty loam, but will also do well on sandy areas. The soil needs to be relatively fertile. Brome is fairly drought tolerant and also tolerates salt and flooding to a degree. It grows best in areas that traditionally have had tall or medium size vegetation.

USES:

Brome was introduced for use as a pasture grass. Maximum production is obtained when a high level of nitrogen is maintained. In some locations, it is used for erosion control and wildlife plantings. Brome is also suitable for reclamation purposes. When raised for haying purposes, the best results occur with irrigation.

VARIETIES:

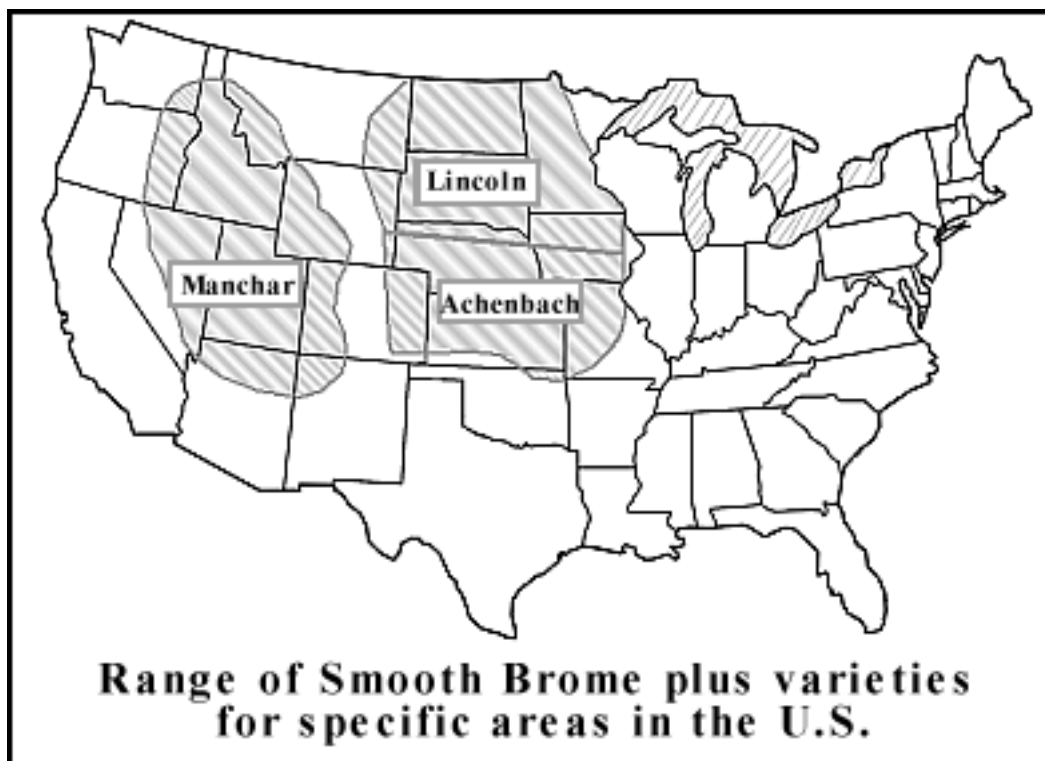
Achenbach is the typical southern type of **Smooth Brome**. It is a leafy, vigorous, and rapid spreading variety that forms dense sod.

Lincoln is a southern type **Smooth Brome**. This cool-season grass provides an abundance of early spring pasturage and fall regrowth. Lincoln is relatively easy to establish, and is often used for conservation purposes, especially erosion control around waterways.

Manchar is an intermediate strain between the northern and southern types of **Smooth Brome**. It is a mild sod-forming grass that is used on well drained soils. Manchar is often used in combination with certain legumes such as alfalfa, for hay, pasture, and silage.

ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT

Since Brome has a fairly short grazing season (early spring and early fall), usage should be controlled to avoid over-grazing. Soils should be tested and nitrogen levels kept high. Yields drop off when the fertility of the soil drops. Brome should be planted in early spring or fall; a firm, moist seed bed is needed for planting. Remember, no matter how strong and viable your stand at **Smooth Brome** may be, it can be easily ruined by over-grazing!



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