



CALIFORNIA BROME

Bromus carinatus (*Bromus* from the Greek name for oats, *broma*, meaning food; *carinatus* means having a keel.)

Why it Was Chosen to Reseed Wildfire Burned Areas:

- California brome seedlings are vigorous and perform well on disturbed areas and droughty soils.
- Like other grasses, its fibrous root system effectively stabilizes soil.
- Like Zorro annual fescue, California brome establishes quickly, then yields to competing species.
- This species is native to California.

How Much to Use:

On wildfire burn areas, use a broadcast seeding rate of 10 pounds per acre (2.3 pounds for a 10,000 square foot area).

In seed mixes with no other grass, the rate can be cut to 8 pounds per acre (2.0 pounds for a 10,000 square foot area) to reduce initial competition with other species.

In seed mixes containing another grass, the rate can be cut to 6.0 pounds per acre (1.4 pounds for a 10,000 square foot area) to reduce initial competition with other species.

Other Uses in California:

California brome is very useful in range, pasture and wildlife habitat. It improves the quality of range forage and occasional grazing or mowing will increase its vigor; overgrazing will damage it.

The species' favorable response to spring and summer mowing make it an excellent cover crop in orchards and vineyards; this grass chokes out weeds in border areas without reseeding.

Background:

As a perennial, it is a slower starter and will not have a large presence the first year. It is meant to provide long-term stabilization.

This species hybridizes with other brome species and various forms are seen in California.

Insights for Homeowners:

This perennial grass goes dormant in the summer, turning brown. It can be mowed to 3 - 4 inches high after maturity for fire hazard control.

What it Looks Like



A short-lived perennial bunchgrass that grows up to 30 inches with drooping leaves and seedheads

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