

Kalm's Brome: Prairie Brome

Bromus kalmii



Cultivation: The preference is full or partial sun, moist to slightly dry conditions, and a loam, clay-loam, or gravelly soil with an average to above-average pH. This plant is easy to grow, but it can be short-lived. Most vegetative growth occurs early in the year (from mid-spring to early summer). Habitats include mesic to dry prairie remnants and grassy fens. This conservative species is rarely found in degraded habitats. In prairies, it becomes one of the understory grasses later in the year. The rather large seeds of Brome Grasses are eaten by various upland gamebirds, sparrows, and small rodents (ground squirrels, mice), while the foliage is grazed by rabbits, deer, and elk.

Plant Structure: This native grass is a short-lived perennial about 2' tall and unbranched. It forms tufts of leaves from vegetative shoots and produces flowering culms (stems). Each culm is green, slender, and round in cross-section. The blooming period occurs during early summer. After the blooming period, the spikelets change color from silky light green to a dull light brown. The root system consists of short rhizomes and fibrous roots.