

# Plants for Solving Resource Problems

## 'REGAR' MEADOW BROME

**S**pecies: *Bromus erectus*

**Common Name:** Meadow Brome

**Plant Symbol:** BRER3

**Accession Number:** PI-172390

**Source:** The original collection was made in 1949 near Zek, in the Kars Province of Turkey. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center in Aberdeen, Idaho received seed in 1957. Detailed collection site information is not available.

**Native Site Information:** Meadow brome is native to Eurasia.

**Method of Selection:** Fifteen clones were selected from an irrigated test nursery at Aberdeen in 1958. This seed was multiplied for testing as P-14941. Plants were evaluated at Aberdeen and Pullman, Washington during the 1960's. P-14941 was officially released in 1966 as Regar, named for its outstanding regrowth characteristic. Other qualities include drought tolerance, winter hardiness, rapid seed germination and seedling establishment.

**Description:** Regar is a long-lived perennial bunchgrass that may produce short rhizomes. Plants produce numerous light green basal leaves that are somewhat pubescent. Flowering stalks extend taller than the leaves ending in an open panicle. Plants green up in early spring and remain green until late in the fall when irrigated or when adequate moisture is available.



**'Regar'**  
**Meadow Brome**

**Use:** Regar is well adapted for use as a pasture grass. Its long green period provides forage that has shown to be very acceptable to cattle, sheep, horses and wildlife. Unlike smooth brome, Regar has good regrowth characteristics and does not go dormant after harvest or during the high temperatures of summer which makes it a good choice for forage and erosion control plantings. Regar can be grown in pure stands or with a legume component such as alfalfa, sainfoin, trefoil or cicer milkvetch.

**Insect and Disease Problems:** Regar is susceptible to covered head smut (*Ustilago bullata*). All seed should be treated with a suitable fungicide to kill the spores that adhere to the seed. Seed treatments will only prevent infection from spores on the seed, but will not control infection if the soils are contaminated. Infection and the resulting smut are not detrimental when the grass is seeded for erosion control or for forage as pasture or hay.

**Environmental Considerations:** Regar spreads very slowly vegetatively and very little via seed dispersal. It is not considered a weedy or invasive species but can spread into adjoining degraded vegetative communities under ideal conditions. There are no known negative impacts on wild or domestic animals.

**Area of Adaptation:** Regar is well adapted to sites receiving 14 inches or more annual precipitation. It is best suited to locations above 3,000 feet elevation in sagebrush-grass, piñon-juniper, ponderosa pine, aspen and Douglas fir communities. Regar is very winter hardy and does better in areas with spring frost than orchardgrass.

**Soil Adaptation:** Regar performs well in a broad range of soil conditions. It performs best on moderately deep to deep, fertile, well-drained soils, but also performs fairly well in shallower soils. Preferred soil textures range from coarse gravelly to medium textured. Regar grows well in moderately acidic to weakly saline to sodic soil conditions. It does not do well in wet, saline soils or areas with high water tables.

**Planting and Harvesting:** Plant in a clean, firm, weed-free seed bed. Under dryland conditions, plant in late fall or early spring to avoid failure from drought and heat. Irrigated seedings should be completed in early to mid spring. Seed at a depth of ¼ to ½ inch. For dryland or irrigated seedings use a seeding rate of 10 lb Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre. For critical area treatment or broadcast, double rate to 20 lb PLS/acre. When used as a component of a seed mix, adjust to the

percent of mix desired. Forage plantings respond very well to applications of fertilizer.

For seed production, plant fungicide treated seed in 24 to 36 inch rows at 4.5 to 5 pounds PLS per acre to allow mechanical weed control and to maintain rows. Seed is ready for harvest in mid-July to early August. Windrow in the firm dough stage and then combine in about 7 days (once seed has matured in windrow). Seed yields range from 200 pounds per acre (dryland – 16 inch+ rainfall) to 550 pounds per acre (irrigated).

**Seed Maintenance:** Breeder and Foundation seed is maintained at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC  
P.O. Box 296  
1691A S. 2700 W.  
Aberdeen, ID 83210  
Phone: (208) 397-4133

Foundation seed is available through the University of Idaho Foundation Seed Program and Utah Crop Improvement Association and Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho, Utah and Nevada. Certification of seed shall be limited to not more than two generations from Foundation seed (Registered and Certified).

November 2006



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, Political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET CENTER at (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127(TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.