

'Manchar' SMOOTH BROME

Scientific Name: *Bromus inermis* Leyss

Common Name: smooth brome

Cultivar Name: 'Manchar' (PI 109812)

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1943

ORIGIN: 'Manchar' was developed from material collected in 1935 from Kungchuling Experiment Station of the South Manchurian Railway, Manchuria, China as PI 109812. It was subjected to mass selection and tested in uniform nurseries and strain tests since 1937 as P-177. It was released for commercial production in 1943 as P-177. It was named 'Manchar' in 1946.

DESCRIPTION: 'Manchar' is a cool season perennial sod-forming grass that is intermediate between weakly spreading northern types and aggressive sod-forming southern types. 'Manchar' maintains good balance with associated legumes; produces vigorous seedlings; has good yields of seed and forage; and recovers rapidly after cutting. Its' dark purple-cast seeds thresh easily. Seeds are generally heavier than that of common smooth brome. It is adapted to Plant Hardiness Zone 5 (USDA). It is adapted to the 16 to 30 inch rainfall areas of the Northwestern United States.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: No significant problems have been noted.

SEED PRODUCTION: 'Manchar' is an excellent seed producer, producing 349 pounds per acre in 22 years at the Pullman Plant Materials Center in dryland conditions. Production ranged from 126-787 pounds per acre.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: 'Manchar' may be seeded in the spring. Seed not over 1/2 inch deep, on a firm seedbed. It is recommended all plantings be made on a Pure Live Seed basis (PLS).

CONSERVATION USES: The Pullman Plant Materials Center has discontinued production of breeder seed of 'Manchar' smooth brome after an Environmental Evaluation was conducted in March, 2002. A determination was made that in certain environments 'Manchar' could be invasive. 'Manchar' has been previously recommended for use in dryland and irrigated pastures and hay mixtures.

AVAILABILITY: For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.