

SITKA (ALASKA) BROME *Bromus sitchensis*

Market: WDOT, ODOT, ADOT, USFS, SCS, USFWS disturbed sites, culvert removal, side cast, pull back, reclamation and soil stabilization, native riparian, upland site native seed mixtures. Best forage production of native grass species in Pacific Northwest. Excellent source of full season forage production, high protein and total digestible nutrients (TDN) for small and large mammals.

Characteristics: Sitka brome is a large, rapidly developing, short-lived, perennial bunchgrass that lacks rhizomes. It has approximately 103,000-120,000 seeds per pound. Sitka brome grows where annual rainfall ranges between 18-48 inches. Sitka brome is a short, stout native with hairless, flat, thin, long leaves. Mature plants range from .5-1.5 meters in height. Habitat consists of dry meadows, stream-banks, sea beaches, bluffs, slopes, open woods, prairies, thickets, and moist or dry hillsides at low elevations along coastal plains from Alaska to the Puget Lowlands and Willamette Valley of Oregon. Sitka brome exhibits intermediate shade tolerance. Sitka brome is compatible with other annual grasses, forbes, legumes, and tree plantings and is recommended for re-vegetation of logged-off, timberlands and oak woodlands. Sitka brome provides excellent wildlife habitat for mammals, birds and waterfowl.

Comments: Sitka brome seed looks similar to brome species *B. marginatus*, *B. carinatus* and *B. pacificus*. Debearding (removal of awns during seed cleaning) seed will facilitate seed box planting for drilling applications. Sitka brome, similar to California brome exhibits strong seedling vigor, rapid establishment and good plant coverage 60-100 days post seeding. These traits are highly beneficial in sites where competition from invasive species will be a limiting factor to successful native restoration.

Seeding rate: Seed @10-30 lbs. per acre. Drill seeding requires 30% less seed than broadcast. Lower seeding rates are recommended on sandy loam soils. Higher seeding rates are recommended on high bulk density or clay loam soils.

Availability: **Mid Willamette Riverbottom** is population collected north of Albany, Oregon along the Willamette River flood plain. It is characterized by robust but stout plant growth, heavy leaf canopy and bright green leaf color. It has excellent winter growth characteristics in maritime regions of the Pacific Northwest. It is very competitive with winter annual grassy and broadleaf weeds. Other sources of Sitka brome are available, however this seed is sourced outside of the Pacific Northwest and is not native to our region.

