

# Be On the Lookout!

## Invasive Plant at Academy Village!

### Help us stop red brome!

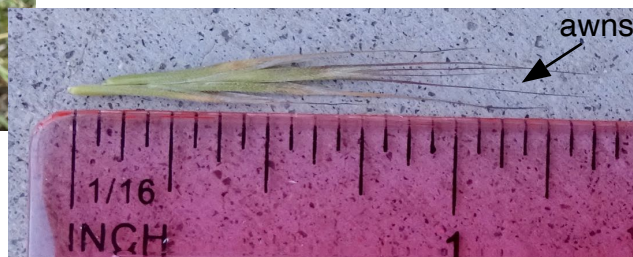
Red brome is an annual grass from the Mediterranean region. Its seeds need only 0.5" of rain to germinate, and it thrives in areas with only 10 inches of rain a year. Though red brome germinates in fall, you will only notice it in spring when the large seedheads start to mature and turn red.

Red brome decomposes slowly and greatly increases the fire potential, intensity, and burn speed in areas where it has invaded.



### How to recognize red brome

Red brome grows 8-20" tall. The mature seed heads are large, 3" long and 2" wide, starting green then turning red. Each seed is long - almost 1.5" - and ends in several thin, barbed, needle-like protrusion (called awns) that are usually reddish and almost a half inch long. By the time you see the seed heads, the leaves may be brown, as the plant slowly dies.



### What you can do to help

Red brome is a new invasive in our community. Open Space and Trails Committee (OST) is pulling any plant it finds. If the seeds fall to the ground, red brome will be a problem next year.

We need you to help us find red brome. Unlike other invasives, we are not finding it in construction lots or around new houses, but in more established areas of our community.

If you find red brome and are confident of the ID (look for those long awns), please pull it and discard it in the trash. After you pull it, please send a note to Mary Welch-Keesey (mw-k@cox.net) giving its location. This helps us know where to scout next year. If you are unsure if your plant is red brome, please contact Mary for assistance.