

Name

Brachypodium sylvaticum

False Brome



Habitat/Range A perennial grass of well-drained neutral to calcareous soils; it is widespread in England and Wales, but less so in Scotland and Ireland. It occurs from sea level to 465 m. Mainly a woodland species it is found along hedges as well as roadsides and rail banks. It frequently colonises calcareous grassland following scrub management and can persist when shading canopy is removed. In more upland areas it is a coloniser of limestone pavements, cliffs and scree slopes. It generally avoids wet conditions.

Identification This is a strongly tufted plant growing to between 30 and 90 cm tall. The culms are erect to spreading with hairy nodes but otherwise smooth. The leaves are usually loosely hairy, bright yellow-green and arch elegantly; ligules are blunt, between 1 and 6 mm long. The 6 to 20 cm long heads are in spike-like racemes, usually nodding. The spikelets are narrow and cylindrical with long projecting awns, adding to the graceful appearance of this species.



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