

Name

Anisantha sterilis

Barren Brome



Habitat/Range This is a generally lowland grass, absent from upland areas of Wales and northern England and much of Scotland and Ireland, and found between sea level and 365 m. It is a long-established alien annual of roadsides, hedge bottoms, rail banks and arable fields as well as being a common weed of waste ground and gardens.

Identification Barren brome can be weedy and small or grow up to 100 cm tall. The culms are loosely spreading and generally erect although the lax panicles flop markedly to one side giving the grass a leaning appearance. Leaves are rough and hairy and green to purplish and the ligules are 2-4 mm long and pointed. Spikelets are loosely scattered in the panicle on long flexible branches and quite shiny, they are elongate with long awns further extending them to between 4 and 6 cm. They move readily in the slightest breeze, animating their appearance.



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