

# Management of *Bromus tectorum* (Cheatgrass)



Lewis and Clark County Noxious  
Weed Control District  
3402 Cooney Dr Helena | MT 59602

# Montana Priority 3 Regulated Plant

## Plant Description

*Bromus tectorum*, cheatgrass, is a cool-season annual bunchgrass that germinates in the fall and winter. Young plants are bright green in color and as they mature, the foliage and seed heads become purplish then brown when dried out. The leaves and leaf sheaths are typically covered in short, soft hairs. Cheatgrass flowers in the spring and usually drops to one side. Stems grow 20-50 cm tall.

## Mechanical Control

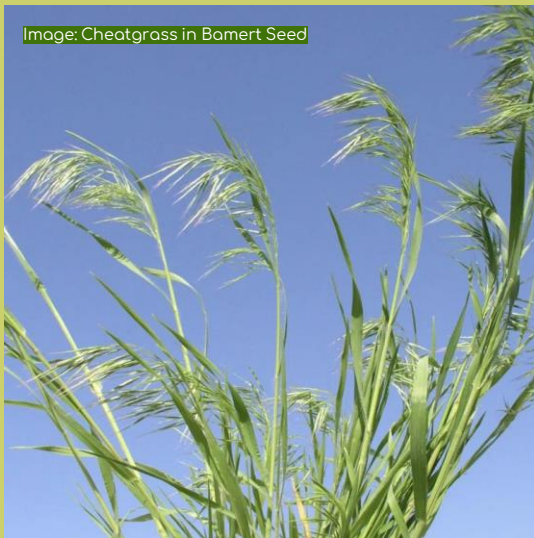
Cheatgrass may be mowed or hand pulled while plants are green. Once plants turn red or purple, mowing is no longer effective; hand removal is recommended at the red or purple stage to prevent seed dispersal. Bag and dispose of any flowering plants. Mow every 2-3 weeks during spring and summer.

## Biological Control

There is currently no biological control available for cheatgrass.

## Cultural Control

Controlled burns are not encouraged because it can often lead to a displacement of desirable native plants and an increase in cheatgrass density. Revegetation is important. Introduce desirable species, especially in areas with disturbance. Competing plants help prevent the invasion of new and existing unwanted vegetation.



### Recommended Treatment Timeline

Control Type	Spring	Summer	Fall
Mechanical	Hand pull, bag and dispose, Mow	Hand pull, bag and dispose, Mow	Hand pull, bag and dispose
Biological	None available		
Cultural	Revegetation		Revegetation
Chemical	Foliar spray (Glyphosate)	Foliar spray (Indaziflam)	Foliar spray (Imazapic)

# Chemical Control

Follow the directions on herbicide labels, the label is the law. Calibrate equipment for accurate application. Commonly used herbicides are listed below, order of listing is not reflective of efficacy or recommendation.

Personal protective equipment must be worn when applying herbicides. Only apply herbicides in appropriate weather conditions.<sup>a</sup>

Use appropriate surfactants as listed in the product label.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Read and follow all instructions in the label of the herbicide.

**Chemical Control Table**

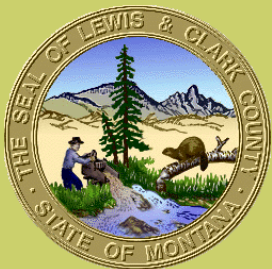
Use Site	Herbicide (Active Ingredient - Trademark)	Pre-emergent or Soil Residual Activity	Post-emergent (Foliar Applied)	Large Sprayer Rate per Acre	Spot Treatment Rate for Every 1 Gallon of Water	Restricted Entry Interval (Hours)	Application Notes and Environmental Advisories*
Non-Cropland Areas, ROW, Grazed Areas	Indaziflam - Esplanade 200 sc <sup>b</sup>	yes	no	3.5 - 5 oz	Calibration necessary, consult label	12	Apply any time of the year. Sufficient precipitation following the application to activate herbicide. Groundwater and surface water advisories.
Rangeland, CRP Lands, Natural Areas	Indaziflam - Rejuvra <sup>b</sup>	yes	no	3.5 - 5 oz	Calibration necessary, consult label	12	Apply any time of the year. Sufficient precipitation following the application to activate herbicide. Toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates. Non-target organism advisory. Groundwater and surface water advisories.
Pastures, Rangeland, Non-Cropland Areas	Imazapic - Plateau <sup>b</sup>	yes	yes, very early on	4 - 12 oz	Calibration necessary, consult label	12	Apply during pre-emergence to very early post-emergence, 3 leaves maximum. Apply during fall to early spring. Non-target organism advisory. Groundwater and surface water advisories.
Ornamentals	Glyphosate - Roundup ProMax <sup>b</sup>	no	yes	1/3 - 1 qt (Roundup ProMax <sup>b</sup> )	0.5 - 2% v/v solution (Roundup ProMax <sup>b</sup> )	4	Apply in early spring before native perennials emerge. Surface water advisory.

<sup>b</sup>Lewis and Clark County Noxious Weed Control Division does not endorse any trademarks or commercial names listed above.

This table summarizes selected registered use sites and is not intended to represent all approved uses. Pesticide applicability, use sites, and restrictions vary by product and formulation. Applicators must consult and follow the most current product label, which takes precedence over this document.

## References

- BASF Corporation. (2023). *Plateau*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Registration No. 241-365.
- Bayer Cropscience. (2020). *Roundup ProMax*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Registration No. 524-579.
- Cheatgrass — *Bromus tectorum*. Montana Field Guide. Montana Natural Heritage Program.  
<https://FieldGuide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=PMPOA151H0>
- Ditomaso, J. M., Kyser, G. B., Oneto, S. R., Wilson, R. G., Orloff, S. B., Anderson, L. W., Wright, S. D., Roncoroni, J. A., Miller, T. L., Prather, T. S., Ransom, C. V., Kenneth George Beck, Duncan, C. A., Wilson, K. A., J Jeremiah Mann, Department, Davis., & Weed, Davis. (2013). *Weed control in natural areas in the Western United States*. University Of California Weed Research And Information Center. 62719-259.
- Envu. *Esplanade 200 SC*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Registration No. 101563-144.
- Envu. *Rejuvra*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Registration No. 101563-208.



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