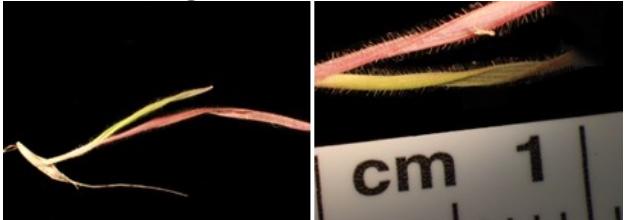


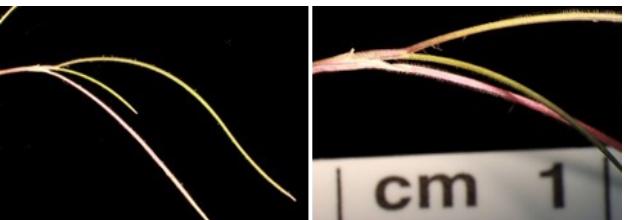
Seedlings:



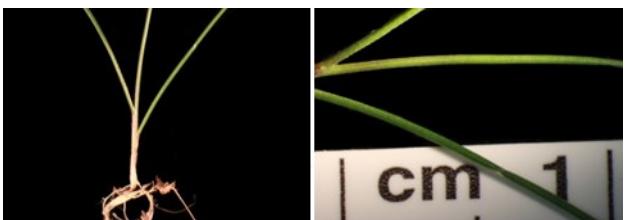
Cheatgrass seedling: multiple mid-length hairs on entire plant.



Japanese brome seedling: abundant mid-length to long hairs on entire plant.

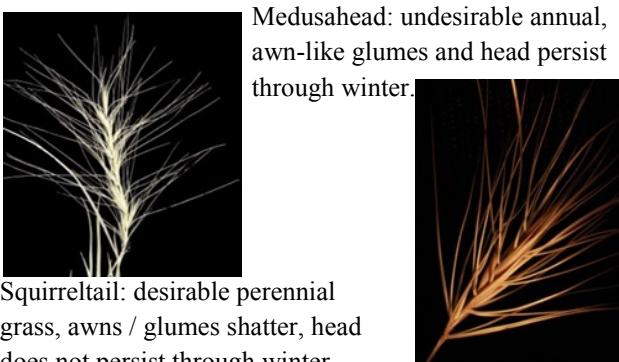
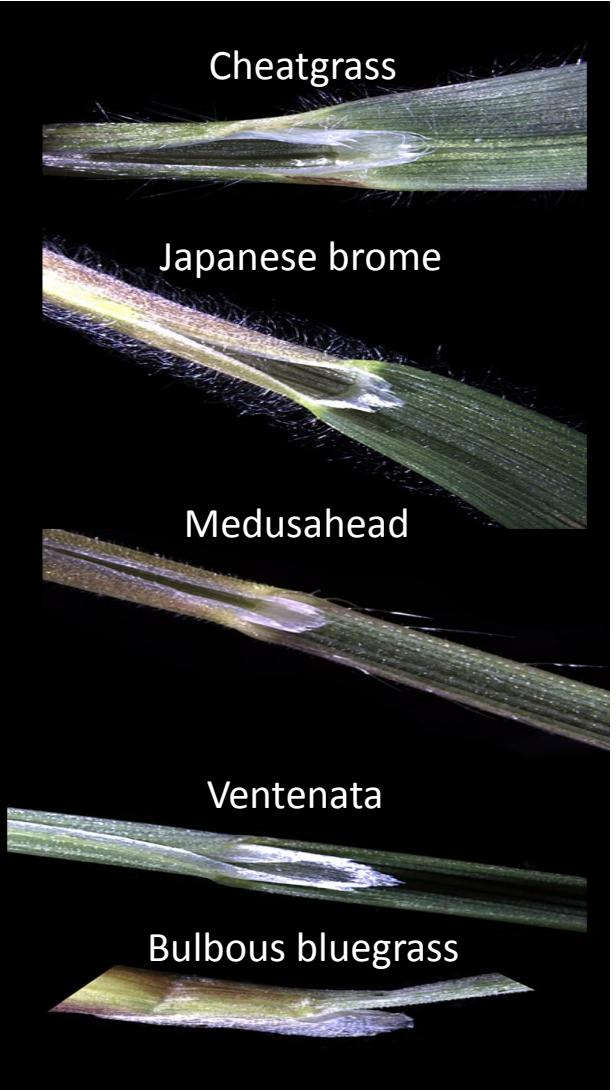


Medusahead seedling: few if any hairs (may be microscopic), long slender, almost rounded leaves.



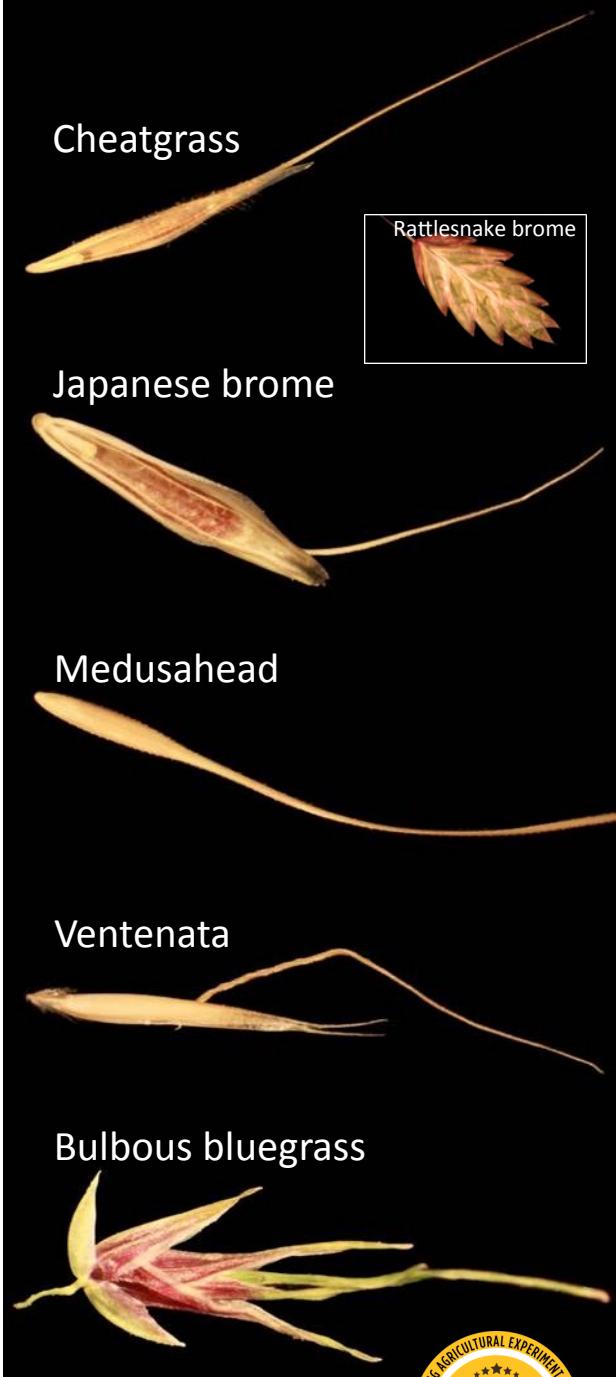
Ventenata seedling: no hairs, long slender, almost rounded leaves. Grows slower and is less robust during early season growth.

Ligules:



Squirretail: desirable perennial grass, awns / glumes shatter, head does not persist through winter.

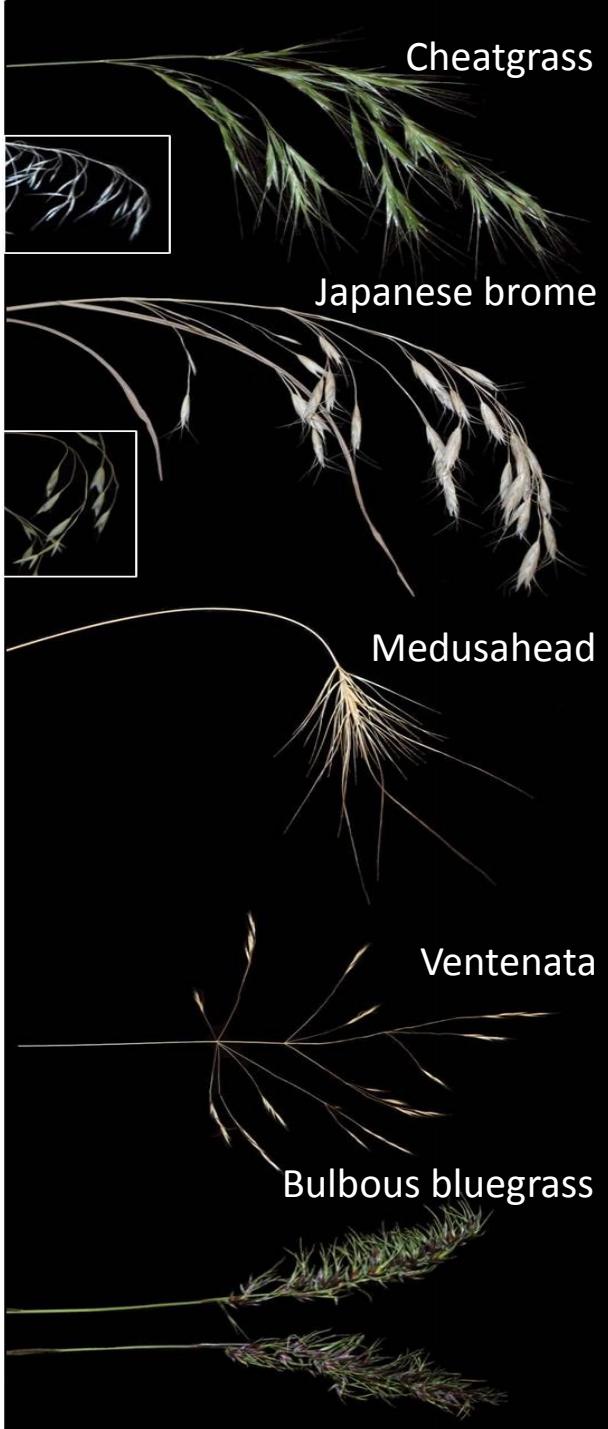
Seed:



For more information or to report medusahead or ventenata contact: Your local Weed and Pest office.



Invasive Grass Quick Guide



Inserts: After seeds shatter, glumes remain

| | Height | Leaves | Hairs | Node | Ligule | Inflorescence | Seedhead/ spikelet | Awns |
|--|----------|--|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Cheatgrass (downy brome) <i>Bromus tectorum</i> (Annual) | 4-30 in | Flat leaves, 2-5 in x 0.12-0.28 in (3-7 mm); sheath flattened near collar | Leaves and stem densely covered with soft hair | Green, darker at maturity | Short, 1.5-3 mm; papery thin with a ragged edge | Open, slender and dense, drooping at maturity , flexible, 2-6 in long | Slender and nodding, 3/8-3/4 in long, 4-8 spikelets/ branch, 5-8 florets/ spikelet | Straight, 3/8 – 5/8 in; purple at maturity, turns brown/yellow at senescence |
| Japanese brome <i>Bromus japonicus</i> (Annual) | 12-30 in | Flat leaf blade, 3-8 in x 0.04-0.28 in (1-7 mm), hairy with prominent mid-vein, sheath with long, hairs; collars yellow or purple, constricted | Abundant long hairs prominent at all growth stages on leaves and stems | Green, darker at maturity | Membranous, less than 2 mm, rounded | Open panicle, flexible branches that can spread and droop 4.5 – 8 in long | 1/4 x 1/2 in, 6-11 florets; broad lemmas, 7-9 mm, split or lobed at tip, fat appearance | 1/4 - 3/4 in long; slightly twisted, bent, wavy; spread at maturity |
| Medusahead <i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i> (Annual) | 6-24 in | Rolled leaf blades, >1/8 in x 4-12 in; open sheaths; slightly hairy | Soft short hairs; collar sparsely long haired | Green, darker at maturity | Membranous, truncate, 0.3 – 0.8 mm | Long awned spike , nearly as wide as it is long, 1-4 in | Spikelet attaches directly to stem, 2 / node, 2 florets / spikelet, top floret typically sterile and smaller | 1-4 in long; at maturity: twisted, stiff with minute barbs; awned floret falls out, awn-like glumes persist on head through winter |
| Venetenata (wiregrass) <i>Venetenata dubia</i> (Annual) | 6-27 in | 3/4 – 2 & 3/8 in x 1-3 mm; narrow, rolled lengthwise or folded; open sheaths | Microscopic hairs that give a shiny appearance | Dark red or black | Membranous; long, cut into narrow segments | Lax, open pyramidal panicle , 8 in long; turns to light yellow with a distinct sheen | 7/16 -5/8 in long 2-3 florets / spikelet, 15-35 seeds per plant | Lower awns straight, 3/16"; upper awns 3/8 – 1 in, bent and twisted, similar to wild oat; hairy at base (callus) |
| Bulbous bluegrass <i>Poa bulbosa</i> (Perennial) (bulbs at base of mature plant) | 6-24 in | Narrow, flat or loosely rolled; boat tipped 2-6 in x 1-2 mm; sheaths open nearly to base, margins membranous | No hairs to short hairy; cobwebby hairs at base of lemma | Green, darker at maturity | Membranous, 1/8 in (3.2 mm); top rounded or pointed, sometimes slightly jagged | Open, slightly nodding ovate to lanceolate panicle, dense ; contracted, branches ascending; 2-4 in long | Bulblets, not seed, with dark purple base; compressed, many spikelets 4-6 florets / spikelet | No awns, glumes and lemmas soft, forming bulb; bracts extend into slender tips 1/5 - 3/5 in long |

Impacts

Medusahead and venetenata can negatively impact pasture and rangelands. They are capable of excluding desirable native species, and reducing livestock forage by up to 70%. Similar to cheatgrass, they can increase wildfire frequency and intensity. Awns can lead to physical injury in grazing animals and seeds attach readily to clothing, animals and equipment. Some managers consider medusahead and venetenata to be worse than cheatgrass and have observed these species replacing cheatgrass.

What Happens Next?

Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR): To eliminate these species or reduce their impacts, we must find and manage populations quickly.

Play Clean Go: To prevent accidental spread of seeds: clean boots, clothing, animals, and equipment before entering or exiting an area (for example, clean seeds from pant legs, remove mud from tires and boots, etc.)

Reporting: Report these grasses through EDDMapS or to a county Weed and Pest office. This allows managers to start controlling the invasion and reduce additional spread. **Your help in reporting these species is critical.**

EDDMapS is a multiregional resource for reporting, tracking, mapping, identifying and managing weed species. Locations of weed species can be reported online (www.eddmaps.org) or through a smartphone app (free download). A photo and GPS location or knowledge of the exact location of occurrence (if not using the app) are required.