

Perennial C₃ tufted grass, 30-100 cm tall. Frost resistant.

The photo below taken in January, following extremely dry winter with rains starting late October, demonstrating the C₃'s ability to respond to rainfall any time of year.

Elymus is short lived, acting almost like an annual. It has the ability to colonize bare earth (see photo bottom right).

I have had very good swards appearing after Advance Sowing with oats.

Elymus scaba

Common Wheat

Identification

Stems slender, erect.

Leaves flat or inrolled, to 40 cm, 2-4 mm wide, tapering gradually to a fine point, upper surface and margins rough.

Seedhead slender, spike-like, 15 cm long.

Seeds 4-6 mm long, very rough awn up to 4 cm long which curves away from the stem at maturity.

Flowering late winter to autumn, depending on rainfall.

To distinguish from Tall Brome, before seeds fully mature, look for a small "flag" leaf protruding at right angles 2-6 cm below the seed head (see photo a and b).

