Additional Resources:

Oregon State University Extension, Pacific Northwest’s Least Wanted List: Invasive Weed Identification and Management (EC 1563)

USDA NRCS Plant Materials website: https://plants.usda.gov

Ecologically Based Invasive Plant Management: website, manuals, and information at http://www.ebipm.org/


References:


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**Ventenata (North Africa Wire Grass) (Ventenata dubia)**

Ventenata can be confused with annual hairgrass (Deschampsia danthonioides) that has a similar appearance when it develops seedheads. However, annual hairgrass is a native, noncompetitive grass with other grasses. It has two florets per spikelet, compared with ventenata that can have three. Also, it lacks the dark red to black nodes found on ventenata stems.

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During its vegetative stage, ventenata has a long ligule and dark node. A ventenata-invaded meadow. Ventenata frequently has a lime green color during its early growth.

A dominated site can accumulate litter, which has been found to perpetuate ventenata.

The seedhead on ventenata has a distinctively bent awn.

Ventenata has an open panicle and appears very rigid when dried. The heads do not nod like cheatgrass.

A ventenata has a long ligule and dark node. During its vegetative stage, ventenata has a long ligule and dark node. A ventenata has a long ligule and dark node. A ventenata has a long ligule and dark node.
**Downy Brome (Cheatgrass) (Bromus tectorum)**

![Downy Brome](image1.jpg)

Leaves are wide and soft to the touch, with small hairs on both sides.

The sharp awn on the mature seedhead is straight and long.

![Downy Brome Seedhead](image2.jpg)

Japanese brome (Bromus japonicus) is a look-alike to cheatgrass. However, once seedheads develop, the awns are shorter and can have a bend in them. Once they dry, they often bend out at right angles. Japanese brome can also become weedy, like cheatgrass.

![Downy Brome Infested Site](image3.jpg)

Flowering heads droop down as they mature with seeds.

![Downy Brome Flowering Heads](image4.jpg)

A cheatgrass-infested lower elevation sagebrush steppe site.

**Medusahead (Taeniatherum caput-medusae)**

![Medusahead](image5.jpg)

Medusahead with developing seedheads. Note the coarse, prominent awns.

![Medusahead Seedheads](image6.jpg)

Leaves are very narrow with fine short hairs on the surface and leaf margins. Roots are very shallow. The plant can often have a characteristic yellow-green color.

![Medusahead Infested Site](image7.jpg)

An invaded site on the sagebrush steppe. Dry medusahead plants have a dull buff color. Litter accumulation from previous years' growth is common and breaks down slowly.

![Medusahead Flowering Head](image8.jpg)

Squirreltail (Elymus elomoides), at first glance, may look like medusahead when its seeds are developed, but the awns are not as sharp, and the heads may droop. Also, squirreltail is a perennial bunchgrass, not an annual. Leaves are much wider than medusahead.
Depending on product, pre-emergent applications in fall through post-emergent applications in spring are most effective. Check product label and consult your county or BLM weed specialist.

Late fall. Check product label and consult your county or BLM weed specialist.

Commonly Used Herbicide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invasive Annual Grasses of the Great Basin</th>
<th>Used Herbicide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downy Brome (Cheatgrass)</td>
<td>Imazapic, Tebuthiuron, Glyphosate++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medusahead Wildrye</td>
<td>Imazapic, Rimsulfuron+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventenata</td>
<td>Imazapic, Rimsulfuron, Sulfometuron*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nonchemical Control

- Perennial grass establishment
- Early season grazing with adequate stocking rate
- Mowing can reduce seed production
- Seed burial by tilling
- Removing thatch layer
- Aminopyralid
- Racking, prescribed burning, or tillage where possible, followed by reseeding

Grazing Suitability

- Early spring. (Protein levels can be 20% or more). Seedhead awns can irritate eyes or create abscesses in late summer.
- Mid-spring, approximately 2 weeks to a month later than cheatgrass, and typically later than medusahead. May be grazed in winter for targeted control with the use of protein supplementation.
- Fall through spring, and dry out cheatgrass and medusahead sites.

Habitat Types

- Clay-dominated soils such as on south-facing slopes and burned areas
- Disturbed sites over a variety of soil types
- Clay-dominated soils

Invasive Annual Grasses Formed in the Great Basin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Seed Dispersal Time of Germination/Emergence/Establishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downy Brome (Cheatgrass)</td>
<td>Mosty fall, although some can germinate in winter through spring depending on site and old ventenata litter level on site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medusahead Wildrye</td>
<td>Early fall through spring, depending on moisture conditions and thatch layer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventenata</td>
<td>Spring, following moisture accumulation, available, or in spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resistance has occurred in Group 1 and 2 herbicides in the Pacific Northwest.

For more detailed information, contact your local Extension agent, weed management specialist, or county weed master.