



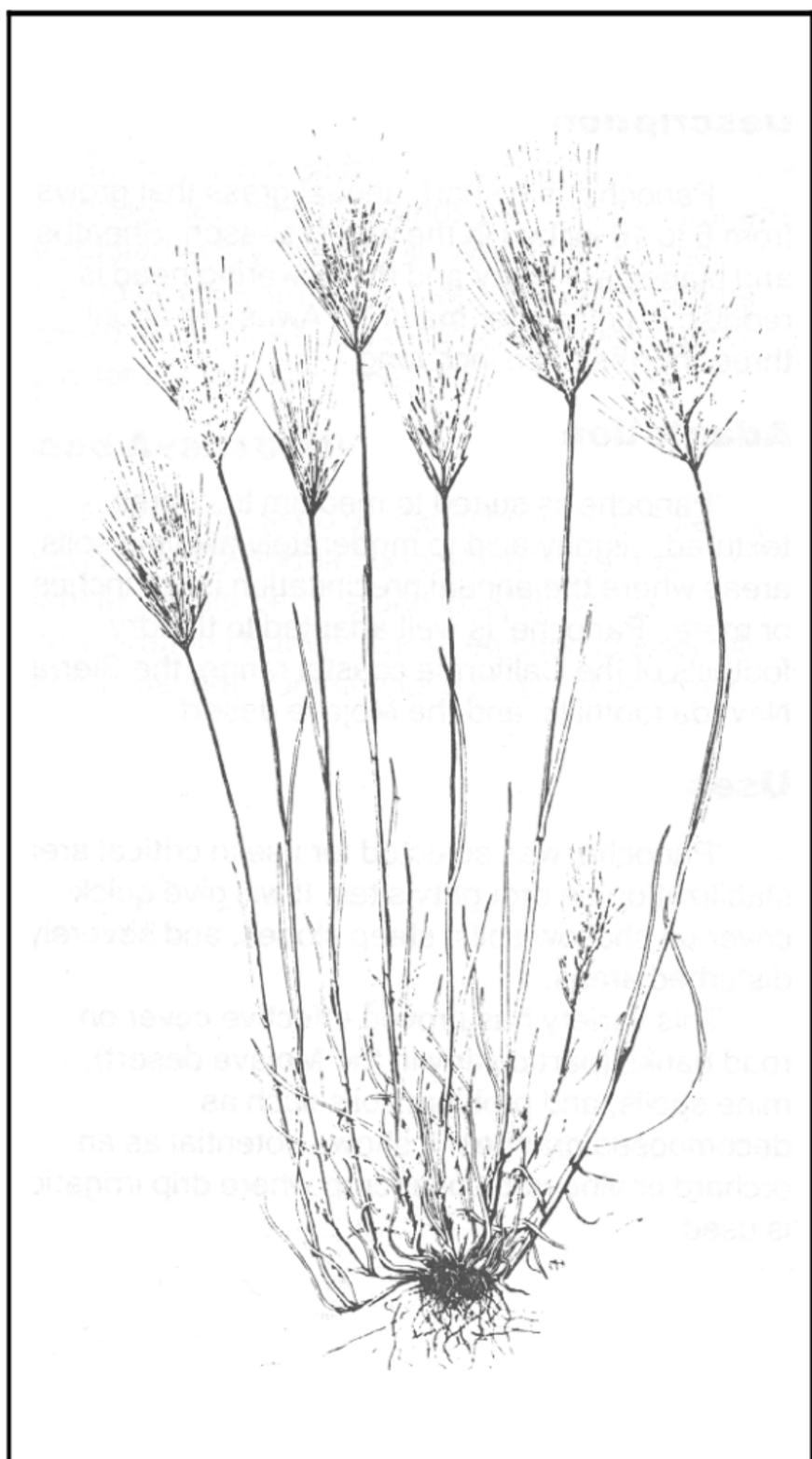
United States Department of Agriculture

**Soil Conservation Service**

Davis, California



# **'Panoche'** **Red Brome**



## **'Panoche' Red Brome** (*Bromus rubens* L.)

'Panoche' red brome is a cool-season, annual grass originally collected in the Panoche Hills, 4 miles east of Mercy Hot Springs, Fresno County, California. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the California Agricultural Experiment Station released 'Panoche' in 1985. This species occurs from Washington to Southern California and east to Utah and Arizona. In California, red brome is usually found growing at elevations below 5000 feet.

### **Description**

'Panoche' is a short, annual grass that grows from 6 to 16 inches in the winter season. Sheaths and blades are fuzzy and the flowering head is reddish in color after maturity. Awns are about three-fourths of an inch long.

### **Adaptation**

'Panoche' is suited to medium to coarse textured, slightly acid to moderately alkaline soils in areas where the annual precipitation is 7.5 inches or more. 'Panoche' is well adapted to the dry foothills of the California coastal range, the Sierra Nevada foothills, and the Mojave desert.

### **Uses**

'Panoche' was selected for use in critical area stabilization on droughty sites. It will give quick cover on shallow soils, steep slopes, and severely disturbed areas.

This variety has proved effective cover on road banks (particularly in the Mojave desert), mine spoils, and problem soils such as decomposed granites. It shows potential as an orchard or vineyard cover crop where drip irrigation is used.

### **Establishment**

'Panoche' should be seeded between October 1 and November 15. Best results are obtained when seed is drilled but broadcast seedings will produce good stands.

Recommended seeding rates on critical areas are 45 pounds per acre when broadcast and 15 pounds per acre when drilled. There are about 268,000 seeds per pound.

### **Management**

To maintain stands of 'Panoche,' it is recommended that 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen be applied every other year. When used as an orchard or vineyard cover crop, 'Panoche' can be mowed frequently but should be allowed to set seed for the following year.

### **Seed Availability**

Foundation seed of 'Panoche' is available through the California Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Service and local Resource Conservation Districts. Certified seed is available through several commercial outlets in California.

The Soil Conservation Service operates one of its 23 plant materials centers at Lockeford, California, in San Joaquin County. Special emphasis is placed on finding suitable plants for erosion control on soils and sites where it is hard to establish protective vegetative cover.

Plants are significant components of about two-thirds of the conservation practices that farmers, ranchers, and others find essential in solving erosion and sedimentation problems. It is SCS policy to assemble, evaluate, release, and distribute for commercial increase new or improved plant materials needed for resource conservation and development.

SCS assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.