

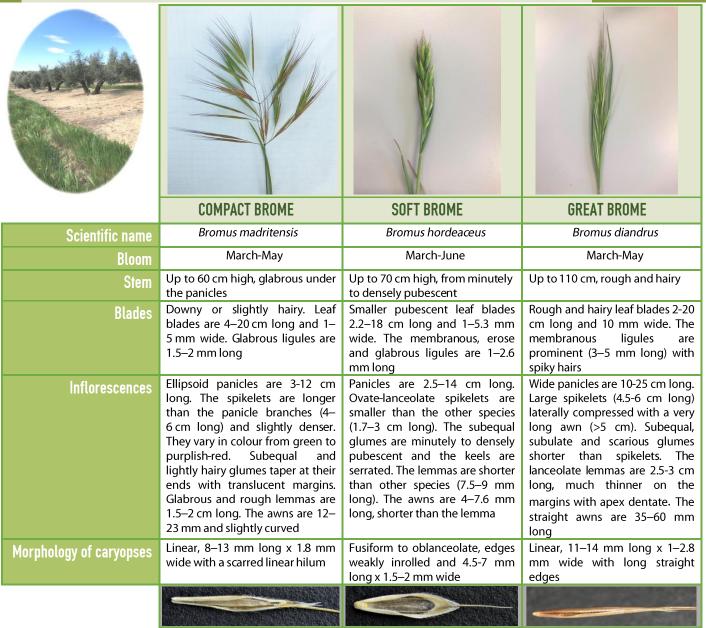


A BOTANICAL OVERVIEW OF THE MOST COMMON SPONTANEOUS GRASS COVER CROP SPECIES IN OLIVE ORCHARDS

A mix of natural brome grasses is commonly used as spontaneous cover crops in olive farms of southern Spain. The species *Bromus madritensis, Bromus hordeaceus* and *Bromus diandrus* are annual plants that emergence in autumn-winter comprising a band of 2 meters wide in the inter-row spacing of the olive orchards. These species are self-seeded every year and they dry naturally after seed production. The first stages of growth do not allow a distinction between species, but their inflorescences and different morphology of caryopses enable their identification.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chemical or mechanical killing methods are often not necessary in southern Spain to control spontaneous grass cover crops because they dry out naturally due to high temperatures in late spring



Caryopsis' pictures source: Fernando Bastida Milián (University of Huelva, Spain)



