

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Festuca bromoides* – BROME FESCUE [Poaceae]

*Festuca bromoides* L., BROME FESCUE. Annual, fibrous-rooted, 1–several(–many)-stemmed, often cespitose, erect to decumbent), 5–40(–50) cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves, glabrous to puberulent. **Stems** (culms): cylindric, slender, < 1 mm diameter, smooth, glabrous. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, 6–50 mm long, prominently veined, glabrous to puberulent, generally without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, truncate, 0.2–0.4 mm long, splitting in age; blade linear, in range 18–62 × 0.5–2.5 mm, flat or inrolled, minutely scabrous on margins, parallel-veined, glabrous or puberulent. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, contracted raceme or panicles 15–70(–150) mm long, of alternate distichous, appressed to ascending lateral branches and short-stalked spikelet with 3–6 bisexual florets, lateral branches at base of array having 2+ spikelets, upper portion of raceme consisting of spikelets, awned; spikelet stalk 1.3–2 mm long; rachis triangular in  $\times$ -section and narrowly 3-winged, minutely scabrous along winged edges, with internodes 3–20 mm long and generally < spikelets, lacking pulvinus in axil with lateral branch or spikelet stalk. **Spikelet:**  $\pm$  compressed-ellipsoid to compressed-lanceoloid, in range 5.5–8.5 mm long (excluding awn), terminal floret commonly sterile, breaking above glumes and between florets; rachilla internodes 0.8–1.2 mm long; **glumes** 2, unequal, lower glume narrowly lanceolate, in range 3.3–4 mm long and 1-veined, upper glume lanceolate, 4.5–6 mm long and 3-veined, sometimes with a short awn to 1 mm long, glumes membranous on margins and glabrous; **lemma** awned, narrowly lanceolate, in range 4–6 mm long, scabrous at least on midvein and margins above midpoint, glabrous, obscurely 5-veined, with a rounded, yellowish callus at base, the awn terminal, straight, in range 2.5–6 mm long, light-colored, scabrous; **palea** membranous and flat with infolded margins, = to lemma length, 2-keeled along 2 green veins, minutely scabrous along keels. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, 0.6–0.8 mm long, unequally 2-toothed with erect teeth, translucent; **stamens** 1, free, included; filament threadlike, ca. 0.8 mm long, whitish-translucent; anther dithecal, ca. 0.4 mm long, purplish red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, compressed-ob lanceoloid to compressed-obovate, ca. 0.6 mm long, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2 essentially separate (branched from near base), included,  $\pm$  0.75 mm long, white. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), dispersed tightly enclosed in awned floret with persistent rachilla segment; achene narrowly lanceoloid, 3.5–5 mm long, with groove on palea side, glabrous.

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