

False Brome Control

**A Case Study of Four Years of Control
on Private Woodlands**

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First realized that nice green grass was invasive false brome about 5 years ago – have been treating extensively since 2007.



Didn't want a total brome understory, concerned about fire hazard, loss of ferns, forbs and other natives, tough to get trees to grow in it, and moving out into our meadows and taking out the iris and other nectar flowers...and hated having our pants get so wet in the winter when walking through our forest.



Brome lays flat in late winter and blocks other vegetation from growing through it because of the dense thatch it creates.



It starts as scattered pockets – then spreads like wildfire. It's spread by the deer, along deer trails, roads and fencelines.



False brome favors shade of trees to get established in open areas, then moves out from there as it seeds and competes with other grasses.



Started spraying with tractor, but it was too large to access all areas in the forest.



ATV was better suited and safer to haul tank & sprayer. Focused on a fall spray period from late Sept through end of Nov. Using glyphosate (Accord) with R-11 surfactant.



A spring loaded reel is a great tool for spraying in the forest – it's important to get one that resists corrosion from water and chemicals.



A garden spring-coil hose works suitably well also – but is harder to recoil.



Use of blue dye and a long wand helps with good coverage. Pin flags were used to mark edges of spray area as dye doesn't last long.

Search + Destroy 2010

27 Sep 10 Started from House & followed road

30 Oct 10 West of House and up valley by v

50 Oct 10 Continued To river Rd T

6 Oct 10 DID TO North Boundary and to
and over to meadow, did not do so

7 Oct 10 DID three trailer loads - around
and railroad excavation

8 Oct 10 - 2 Loads - Iris Trail to rabbit ^{West} cry
sequoia - everything in the curve

11 Oct 10 (1st load part old part new) 2nd Load all new
1 Load meadowland - center road is
and Both valleys & ridges to west

Yesterday WAS 10 10 10

12 Oct 10 4 loads - 2 to finish meadow
ratio (5hrs/3hrs) restoration & meadow area and 2 on

13 Oct 10 2 loads - Finished upper Brome
started up Brome Lake Valley - Start
To worry that 30 Oct 10 planting not showing

15 Oct 10 - 2 loads - continued on upper Brome
west slopes of Brome Lake, (used ^{used} surfactant)

16 Oct 10 2 loads continued west of Brome lake area -

17 Oct 10 (B) to get to Brome road above
mostly that meadow grass protruding & buried in water - Don't

17 Oct 10 (B) to get to Brome road above

18 Oct 10 1 Load - Pondgrass Hill & around metal Tank R.
should be last major spray in this area

Search + Destroy 2010

19 Oct 10
2 Loads - Pileated Forested - Big Teardrop from west to East T-6.5 hrs

NOTES

20 Oct 10 Sprayed along west edge of snail Forest ^{up to path}
in oak restoration area 1 load T-3 hrs

21 Oct 10 Continued along old Hawthorne valley and up along
trail to east ^{big Sequoias by Anonset Hut} 2 Loads T-5.5 hrs

22 Oct 10 Continued East along Puma road 1 Load T-3.5 hrs

23 Oct 10 Worked in middle of snail forest (rained at end) T-2 hrs

27 Oct 10 continued work on Snail Forest & over to
clearing of road to river T-6 hrs

29 Oct 10 DID interface between ~~Kenzie~~ Kenzie Valley and
lower meadowland. Solid small Brome - some Big T-3 hrs

30 Oct 10 Interface between Kenzie Valley & meadow and
up in Kenzie Valley. Also did road to river on meadowland T&K 3hrs

2 Nov 10 Continued in area east of road to river toward
Kenzie Valley site T-2.5 hrs

3 Nov 10 Finished Snail Forest ~~area~~ area over to
oak restoration clearing. Then did lower Hawthorne
Valley by Stevens property T-5.5 hrs

14 Nov 10 - Below Echo Hills / along drainage
- south of metal tanks to fence
- caught some spots in Cedars
- West of Hawthorne meadow ~~top~~
into trees K-4 hrs

16 Nov 10 - Finished by Hawthorne meadow
- E of logs above Echo Hills on Meadowland
(more to do above) - 3 1/2 hrs

Copious notes on hours and locations completed are helpful for planning for following years. We spent 100-150 hours each year covering about 65 acres of forestland.



One year growth in the shade of forest canopy.



Collateral damage to ferns is frustrating and discouraging.



Giving new meaning to “the grass is greener on the other side”, it will take effort on the part of “the whole village” to control false brome.