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Maine Natural Areas Program

Bromus kalmii Gray

Wild Chess

- [State Rank](#): S1
- [Global Rank](#): G5
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Habitat: Dry or moist open soil or thickets, often calcareous.

Range: Quebec and Maine south to Virginia and Florida, west to South Dakota and Manitoba.

Aids to Identification: Members of the genus *Bromus* are recognized by spikelets with multiple florets, unequal glumes that are shorter than the spikelet, lemmas with long awns, and often open, drooping panicles. *Bromus kalmii* is a perennial with keeled glumes. The lower glume has 3 nerves. The back of the lemmas have a covering of hairs. The leaf blades and leaf sheaths may also be pubescent.

Ecological characteristics: Historic locations of this plant have been found in sandy areas.

Phenology: Fruiting late June through August

Family: Poaceae

Synonyms: *Bromopsis kalmii* (Gray) Holub; *Bromus purgens* L.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 4 towns in the following counties: Cumberland, Oxford, York.

Reason(s) for rarity: At northern limit of range.

Conservation considerations: There is a single extant occurrence, near a trail, but it appears not to be threatened by hiker activity.

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