

Be careful!

Cheatgrass *is extremely flammable!*

BE CAREFUL!

Don't start a cheatgrass fire.

BE PREPARED!

Remove cheatgrass from
around your home.

Are you prepared?

Photograph by David Allan



This publication was made possible by a collaborative effort of the Nevada Office of the Bureau of Land Management and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. It was written by Ed Smith, Natural Resource Specialist and Jay Davison, Plant and Soils Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. University of Nevada Reno is an EEO/AA Institution.



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

SP-05-08

Be careful! Be prepared!

Dry cheatgrass, nature's kindling...

Dry cheatgrass is one of the most easily ignitable substances on Nevada's rangelands. It is the kindling that fuels many of our wildfires. Once ignited, cheatgrass fires can travel very fast ... faster than you can run! >>>>>>

Don't start a cheatgrass fire...

Cheatgrass fires have been started by catalytic converters on cars, cigarette butts, welding activities, lawn mowers, bottle rockets, and ricocheting bullets. If you are working or playing in cheatgrass country, be extremely careful! Always have water and a shovel nearby. Do not park your car over dry cheatgrass. Properly dispose of cigarettes and matches.

Don't let cheatgrass burn your home...

If cheatgrass is present near your home, remove it from at least the first 30 feet extending from your house and other buildings. Use a lawn mower with a mulching blade or cut it with a weed eater, rake it up, and remove it. Make sure there's a connected garden hose with a spray nozzle attached in case there's an accidental fire start.



Left: Use a weed eater to cut down dry cheatgrass located within 30 feet of the home. Above: Many northern Nevada homes are surrounded by a dangerous sea of reddish-brown cheatgrass this year.



What does cheatgrass look like?

Cheatgrass is an annual grass native to Eurasia. It can be several inches to more than 18 inches tall. Typically, it has a nodding seed head that resembles a shepherd's crook. There is often a tinge of red or purple in the leaves. It is bright green in the early spring. However, it quickly dries out and turns reddish-brown, and eventually straw color as the summer progresses. The seeds are notorious for getting stuck in socks and dogs' ears. During drought years, there may be very little cheatgrass produced. During above average rainfall years, however, it grows tall and is abundant.

For more information...

Ask for "A Homeowner's Guide to Cheatgrass" from your local office of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Division of Forestry, or Fire Department. Call (775) 784-4848, or go to: www.livingwithfire.info

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