

Wild Oat

Bromus ramosus

- ⊖ lack of direction, unfulfilled, drifting
- ⊕ becoming definite and purposeful



INDICATION

Those who have ambitions to do something of prominence in life, who wish to have much experience, and to enjoy all that which is possible for them, to take life to the full. Their difficulty is to determine what occupation to follow; as although their ambitions are strong, they have no calling which appeals to them above all others.

This may cause delay and dissatisfaction.

AFFIRMATION

Let us find the one thing in life that attracts us most and do it. Let that one thing be so part of us that it is as natural as breathing; as natural as it is for the bee to collect honey and the tree to shed its old leaves in autumn and bring forth new ones in the spring. If we study nature we find that every creature, bird, tree and flower has its definite part to play, its own definite and peculiar work through which it aids and enriches the entire Universe.

This tall grass is unrelated to the cereal oats and has the undistinguished name of Hairy Brome Grass. Brome comes from the Greek bromos, oats. It is one of many varieties of grass which have similar characteristics. Perhaps this is typical of the remedy state where the person has many life possibilities but cannot elect for one clear purpose. It was the last of the Seven Helpers and when Bach found it he saw it as being useful as a direction finder that might be needed by anyone. It is a common plant growing on hedge-banks and on the edge of



woodland, never forming a strong community but scattered generally. Wild Oat with its tall stem and loose panicle of flowers seems to 'hang around' without a clear direction and pattern of growth. Most of the other grasses form a dense matted covering to the earth and in a spirit of selfless dedication it is their joy to give service. The taller Wild Oat maybe has a deeper purpose but waits in the hedgerow uncertain as to what that is. A hedge is wild ground, a non-specific habitat that has been created

by farming enclosures. It is not like the specialized conditions of the water meadow, the chalk downland or a beechwood where other plants may choose to grow. It is a waiting place of unresolved purpose.

Bach wrote of Wild Oat that 'it is for those who are not always in their bodies so cannot see what they are meant to do. It is a state that follows

the Clematis state.' Like Clematis (see p.38) the Wild Oat grows with the will to take a firm hold of life. In the negative expression of the remedy this will is not fully effective and then the tendency is to loosen contact

with the earth and physical reality. There is a reluctance to define the purpose in our being here on earth and to engage actively in our calling. Wild Oat also relates to Scleranthus, another green flower without petals, which expresses indecision (see p.66). But Scleranthus is earthbound and more concerned with practical problems while the Wild Oat with its swaying long stems has taken to the air. It seeks the purpose of the soul and the true meaning of its life's work.

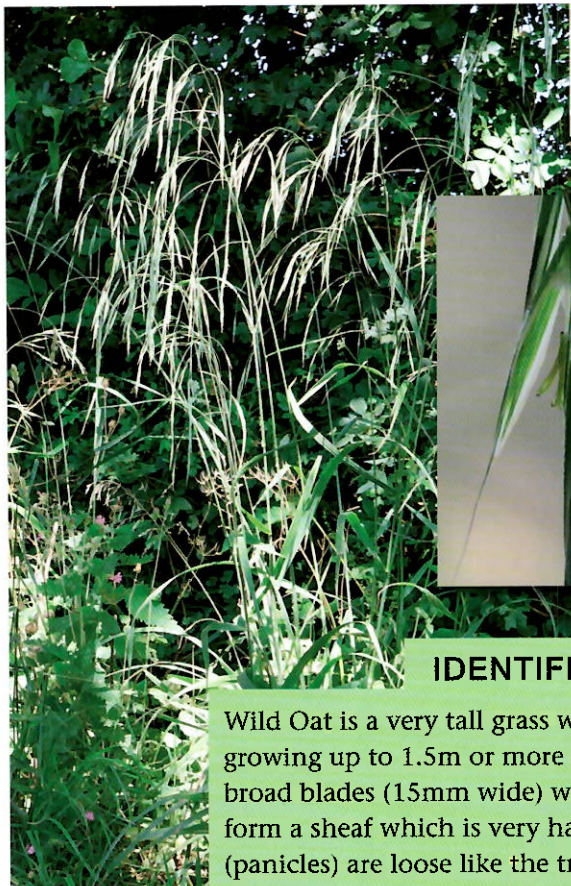
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LOCALITY

Wild Oat grows throughout the country on hedge-banks and along the edge of woodland. It likes a moist soil and prefers a little shade.

Look for it where mowers and grazing animals cannot reach on steep banks and among the trees.



IDENTIFICATION

Wild Oat is a very tall grass with a few slender stalks growing up to 1.5m or more in height. The leaves are broad blades (15mm wide) which clasp the stems to form a sheaf which is very hairy. The flowering heads (panicles) are loose like the true oat. Although it is difficult to define a technical identification it should be possible to recognize Wild Oat as different from the other Bromes. The important pointers are the height, the hairs and the appearance of the panicle.





FLOWERING PERIOD

July and August, significantly later than most of the other flowering grasses.



PREPARATION

Wild Oat is prepared by the sun method (see p.200). When the flower is ready the bracts suddenly open to reveal the yellow pollen on the anthers. Pick the flowering ends of the spikelets from many different grasses and float them on to the water.