

On the Cover: During the autumn, the model grass *Brachypodium distachyon* grows densely and close, unlike its tall form familiar to growers in the summer months. The accumulated branches and leaves of the dense growth may help to insulate its crown tissues and contribute to the over-wintering survival of the plant. Mayer et al. find that this growth transition is influenced by the flowering gene *VERNALIZATION1* (*VRN1*). Image credit: Boris F. Mayer.

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