

Johnsongrass

Sorghum halepense

Description

Introduced to the United States in the early 1800s as a forage crop.

Habit

Warm season perennial grass with dense rhizomes.

Leaves

Smooth, lanceolate with a white mid vein, alternately arranged and 2 feet long.

Stems

Pink to rusty red near the base.

Flowers

Large, loosely branched, purplish, hairy panicles. Spikelets occur in pairs or threes and each has a conspicuous awn.

Fruits and Seeds

Seeds are reddish-brown and nearly 1-8 inch long.

Habitat





Native to the Mediterranean region. Found in crop fields, pastures, abandoned fields, rights-of-way, forest edges, ditches and wetlands. Thrives in open, disturbed, rich bottom ground.

Reproduction

Vegetatively from rhizomes or by prolific seeds.

Similar

Fall panicgrass (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

For small infestations, clumps and individual plants may be hand pulled during June. All plant parts should be removed. For large infestations cut by mowing or tilling. Can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the U.S Forest Service Weed of the Week. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).