

*Sorghum halepense*

# Johnsongrass

Other common names:

Aleppo grass, Cuba grass, Egyptian millet

Poaceae, the grass family

Category: CONTROL



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Rhizomatous annual or perennial; grows up to 6 feet tall
- Leaf blades are flat and smooth to lightly hairy with conspicuous whitish mid-veins
- Ligules are short and membranous with a terminal fringe of fine hairs
- Large open panicles are pyramid shaped and bear many shiny, reddish to purple spikelets

## Background

- Native to the Mediterranean; introduced for use as forage and hay
- Inhabits disturbed sites, rights-of-way, and non-crop areas
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively by rhizomes; acts as an annual in most of Idaho, but can be perennial in lower elevations
- Foliage can be toxic when stressed by drought or after frost; may be poisonous to livestock if ingested

Photo Credit:

J.K. Clark, The Regents of the University of California

J.M. DiTomaso, The Regents of the University of California

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