

Invasive Species Field ID

Sorghum halepense (L.) Pers.

Synonym(s): *Holcus halepensis*, *Sorghum miliaceum*

Family: Poaceae (Grass Family)

Common Name(s): aleppo milletgrass, herbe de Cuba, Johnson grass, Johnsongrass, sorgho d'Alep, sorgo de alepo, zacate Johnson

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Grass/Grasslike

USDA Plants: [SOHA](#)



Description: Perennial with vigorous rhizomes.

Coarse grass with reddish to purplish-black

panicles, to 2 m tall. Plants can rapidly develop colonies. Johnsongrass is considered one of the 10 most noxious weeds in the world.

Biology & Spread: Panicles retain seed or shed seed near the parent plant (shatter). Seed disperses to greater distances with wind, water, agricultural activities, and animals. Some seed survives ingestion by birds and mammals.

Ecological Threat: Johnsongrass grows rapidly, is highly competitive with crops, and can be difficult to control. Infestations in crops can reduce harvest yields significantly. Plants are highly variable and many regional biotypes exist.

Resembles/Alternatives: Fall panicum [*Panicum dichotomiflorum*

Michaux][PANDI] is a summer annual, to 1 m tall, that resembles johnsongrass.

Nodes and internodes of fall panicum give the plant a zig-zag appearance. Unlike weedy sorghums, fall panicum has ligules that consist of a fringe of hairs and are not membranous at the base. Fall panicum seedlings are smaller than those of *Sorghum* and have short hairs on the lower side of the leaf blades



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