

JOHNSON GRASS

Sorghum halepense



Hoosier Heartland RC & D

Mature Height	Up to 8 feet	Soil Type	All Types
Mature Spread	Single plant to large clumps	Flower Color	Reddish Seed Head
Mature Form	Tall Grass	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Rapid	Fall Color	Green to Brown Straw
Sun Exposure	Prefers Sun, Shade Tolerant		
Soil Moisture	Prefers Moist		

Johnson Grass was brought to the US from the Mediterranean area in the early 1800's as a forage grass for livestock. It has spread world wide. It is a tall, coarse, perennial very aggressive grass with stout (up to 3/4 inch in diameter) rhizomes. It grows in dense clumps to nearly solid stands. This species occurs in crop fields, pastures, abandoned fields, rights-of-way and forest edges, and along stream banks. It thrives in open, disturbed, rich, bottom ground, particularly in cultivated fields. Heavy river-bottom infestations can reduce corn or soybean yields to only a few bushels per acre. The best control is to spray the plants when they are about 18 inches in height and in the early flowering stage with a 2% solution of glyphosate herbicide. Individual plants can be pulled when they are small but it is essential to remove all the roots and parts of the plant.



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This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

