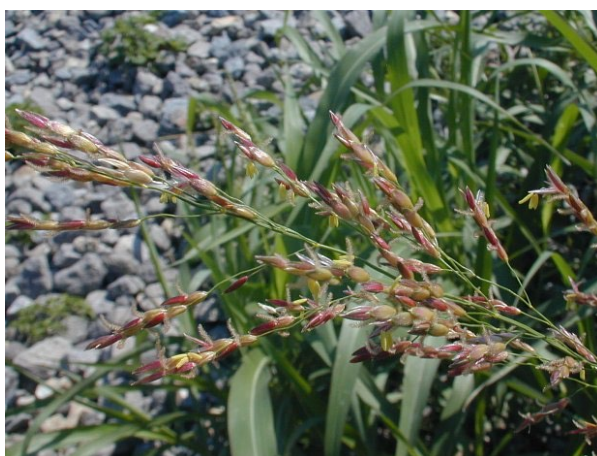


Weed of The Week

Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)

Johnsongrass is a perennial warm-season grass that is native to the Mediterranean. Johnsongrass has dense stands that can grow up to 6 feet tall. Johnsongrass is well-known for becoming established in agricultural fields to reduce yields in corn, soybeans, and leguminous forages. The grass has a prolific seed producer making spread through contaminated crop seed a continual problem. Seedheads are purple-red in color. Plants also spread by underground stems called rhizomes making it a persistent recurring weed. In any developmental stage, Johnsongrass leaves have a very distinct and prominent white mid-vein, which differentiates it from most other grasses.

Johnsongrass is toxic to livestock under certain conditions. Johnsongrass can cause cyanide poisoning in livestock, particularly following stress such as cutting, frost, or chemical application that causes wilting. Johnsongrass is on the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division's list of noxious weeds. There are no effective pre-emergent herbicide options and post-emergent herbicides including glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) are most effective on plants much younger than the current mature plants that are heavy with seed. Mowing before flowering is recommended as it can help reduce growth.



Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)
Seedheads

