



## Weed of The Week

### Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)

One of the most infamous weeds in Agriculture history, this weed has placed itself at the top of the list of hard to control weeds. Once planted as a forage in early 1800's this weed used to be a high energy silage crop for dairy farmers. Farmers soon found out the bad tendencies of this crop to spread to other areas of the farm where it was unwanted! Johnsongrass can be found growing in a wide range of areas including crop fields, pastures, hayfields, and roadside areas. Known for its satellite like growth where it can form dense sods from very stout rhizomes and seed production. Johnsongrass Rhizomes can grow to lengths of 6ft or longer and plant growth can exceed 10ft tall. Flowering and seed production will begin in early June and last until late summer. One plant can produce 28,000 seeds that can be viable in the soil for 40+ years. This weed can cause great yield losses in row crops, estimated losses of 30% can be included in soybeans. Johnsongrass can be toxic to livestock if exposed to frost or drought conditions due to the plant producing cyanide. Glyphosate and Poast are good herbicide options for soybean production, Callisto, Glyphosate, and Revulin Q are good options for corn. Mowing before flowering can prevent growth in pasture and forages.

