



## Weed of The Week

### Shattercane (Sorghum bicolor L.)

No, it is not Johnsongrass, and it is not Sorghum Sudan grass, this week's weed of the week is Shattercane. Shattercane is related to many of our forage sorghums such as sorghum Sudan grass, grain sorghum, corn, and yes even johnsongrass. Shattercane is a summer annual grass that can grow to height of 8'. Native to Africa this plant loves the heat and is prevalent in southern states but is making its way farther north. Shattercane can easily be misidentified as johnsongrass, one key difference is that Shattercane is an annual and does not produce rhizomes like Johnsongrass. Shattercane has a large membranous ligule and waxy leaf sheaths. The large open panicle seed head resembles johnsongrass, but seeds are much larger and will shatter from the plant very easily, therefore it received the name Shattercane. Disbursement from equipment is easily done. This weed is on Ohio's list of Noxious weeds due to its prolific seed producing properties. Shattercane can be very competitive with corn and soybeans. Preventing the spread of Shattercane by going around patches in the field and make sure to clean harvesting equipment. Rotating crops from row crops to perennial forages can reduce stands. Mowing the plant before seeds are produced can reduce plant vigor and population. In corn, Eradicane Extra can be applied to the soil and incorporated with tillage equipment. Accent 75DF can be applied post emergent, glyphosate, and glufosinate can be very effective on smaller younger plants.

