
JOHNSON GRASS

A Noxious Weed In Kansas



HISTORY

Introduced from Turkey in 1830. First reported in Kansas in Cherokee County in 1880.

DESCRIPTION

Upright perennial grass, reproducing by rhizomes and seeds. Well adapted to compete with crops. Stems reach 6 to 8 feet high or more, from a freely branching fibrous root system, which produces extensive rhizomes within six weeks of germination. Leaves alternate, simple, relatively wide and long. Spikelets 1-flowered, in groups of 3, in large open panicles. Fruit a caryopsis or grain, finely striate, reddish brown with two knobbed rachillae extending upward from the base of the seed. Flowers from May until frost and seeds to frost.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD

Preventing seed production and its spread is of primary importance. New infestations of Johnsongrass may be reduced by planting Johnsongrass free seed, using livestock feed that is free of Johnsongrass seed and cleaning machinery before leaving infested fields.

CULTURAL CONTROL PRACTICES

Control of Johnsongrass shall mean preventing the production of viable seed

and destroying the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means.

Control may be achieved by chemical, cultural or mechanical means, or by combinations of these methods.

Cultivation may begin any time during the growing season and shall cut off all the weed plant at each operation (use duckfoot or blade type implement). Cultivations shall be 3 to 5 inches deep at intervals of 14 to 18 days. When the plants have so weakened



that they emerge more slowly, the cultivation intervals may be extended to such time as will permit the plants to grow not more than ten days after each emergence of the first plants, but not to exceed intervals of three weeks. Cultivation shall be continued until the weeds have been eradicated or suppressed to such extent that remaining plants may be more economically destroyed by application of approved chemicals to individual plants or by hand cultivation.

In yards, flower gardens, lawns, and among trees and shrubbery, hoeing and other effective means of thoroughly cutting the weeds at regular intervals, not to exceed 14 days during the growing season, shall be construed as intensive cultivation.

A combination of small grains and intensive cultivation may be used.

Close grazing or mowing at 2 or 3 week intervals through the growing season and followed by late fall plowing to expose the root stalks through the winter is an accepted control practice.

APPROVED HERBICIDES

The following herbicides may be cost-shared with landowners. Other products labeled and registered for use on this noxious weed in Kansas may be used in accordance with label and directions but are not available for cost-sharing.

Glyphosate (Roundup)

For best results, apply to actively growing plants when most have reached boot to head stages of growth.

Oust and nonionic surfactant

Do not apply to crop land. Apply pre-emergence or early post-emergence to boot stage.

Hyvar

Do not apply to crop land. Use for industrial sites and non-crop areas.

Follow label directions and precautions on the following herbicides:

Treflan, Fusilade, Fusion, Poast Plus, Beacon, Accent, Journey, Outrider, Plateau

FACTORS FOR BEST CONTROL

- (1) Use properly calibrated equipment.
- (2) Timely application.
- (3) Follow up to treat field borders, skips, escapes and control seedlings.
- (4) Triple rinse and dispose of herbicide containers.

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