

Johnson Grass

What is it?

Johnson Grass is of Mediterranean origin and was initially introduced as a fodder plant. It is a vigorous perennial plant.

Like most of the Sorghum family, Johnson Grass can be toxic to stock. Young plants should not be grazed.

What does it look like?

Leaf blades are up to 50mm wide, and have prominent mid ribs. Plants grow up to 2 metres in height. Unlike Seed Sorghum (*S. alnum*) seeds, Johnson Grass seeds are smaller and the seed head is more open. Seed dispersal is by birds, animals and machinery.

Control Measures

Physical control:

Cultivation is not recommended as Johnson Grass can grow from fragmented rootstock. Small isolated infestations can be dug out but care is required to ensure all of the roots are removed.

Herbicide control:

As Johnson Grass infestations occur in crops, the selection of a herbicide will be dependent on the crop. Registered herbicide available include *Glyphosate* based products and those containing *2,2,dpa*. Check with your chemical supplier for other herbicides that may be suitable to the cropping situation. Minor infestations may be spot treated and if applied carefully damage will be kept to a minimum. An alternative treatment to overall foliar spray is with the use of a Wik-Wiper (a larger version of the zero weed wand). Contact your local supplier for details of registered herbicides

Johnson Grass

Sorghum halepense

A Category W 2 weed in all areas.

The Noxious Weed Act 1993 requires the weed to be fully and continually suppressed and destroyed.



Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2004). Users are reminded of the need to ensure that any product purchased for the control of Johnson Grass is registered for that purpose. The author cannot take responsibility for any changes, or modifications, that are made to product registration or requirements that may occur after January 2004.

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