

Sorghum halepense

COMMON NAMES

Johnson grass

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Root system freely branching, fibrous. **Rhizomes** stout, creeping with purple spots, usually with scales at the nodes. **Stems** erect, stout, from 0.45–1.8 m or more tall. **Leaves** alternate, simple, smooth 15–50 cm long, about 1.3–3.8 cm wide. **Panicles** large, purplish, hairy (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

GENUS

Sorghum

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Sorghum halepense (L.) Pers.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1946

ORIGIN

Mediterranean

TOLERANCES

The foliage is killed by frost but rhizomes can tolerate 2 days with soil temperatures of -3 to -5C (Department of Conservation 1998)

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by seeds or rhizome fragments during cultivation (Department of Conservation 1998). Seed nearly 3 mm long, oval, reddish-brown, marked with fine lines on surface, bearing a conspicuous awn easily broken off (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981). Dispersed by wind, water, on the coats of animals, being ingested by birds and cattle, or in contaminated seeds and feed stocks (Department of Conservation 1998).

NVS CODE

SORHAL

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Wax LM, Fawcett RS, Isley D, eds. 1981. Weeds of the North Central States. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agriculture, Illinois, USA. 303 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sorghum-halepense/>

PDF DATE



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