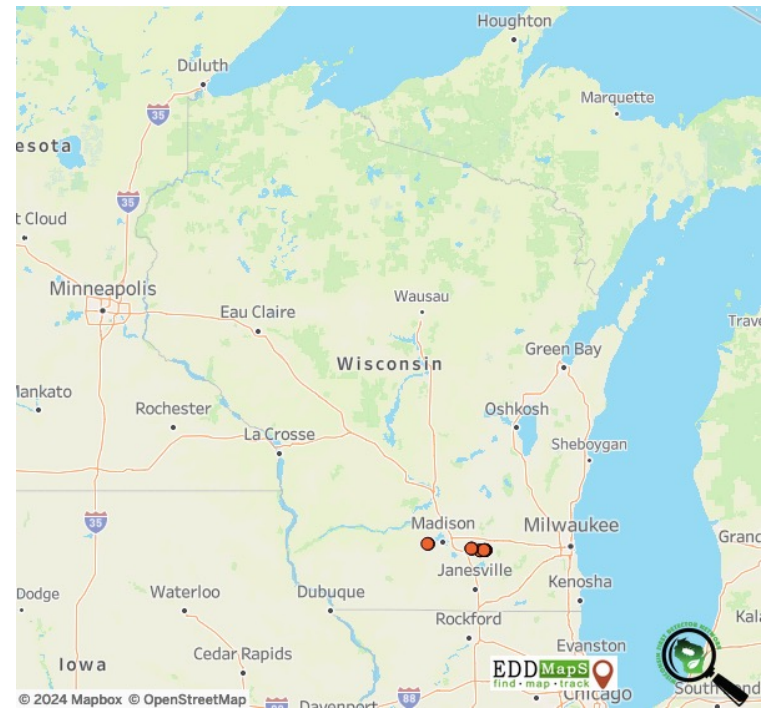


# Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)



UGA2100036

- Tall, late-blooming grass that forms large patches
- Habitats it invades:
  - Grasslands
  - Roadsides
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Prohibited
  - Regulated in: IL, IN, MI, MO, OH



# Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)



Renz Weed Science  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## *Leaves alternate*

- Plants 6-8' tall
- Leaves to 2' long, with white midveins
- Plants spread underground to form large patches



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# Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)



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## *Spikelets*

- Inflorescence a large panicle
- Spikelets borne in pairs; late summer-fall
- Spikelets 3.6-6.5 mm long with 2 florets
- One spikelet narrow, one plump



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# Johnsongrass look alike



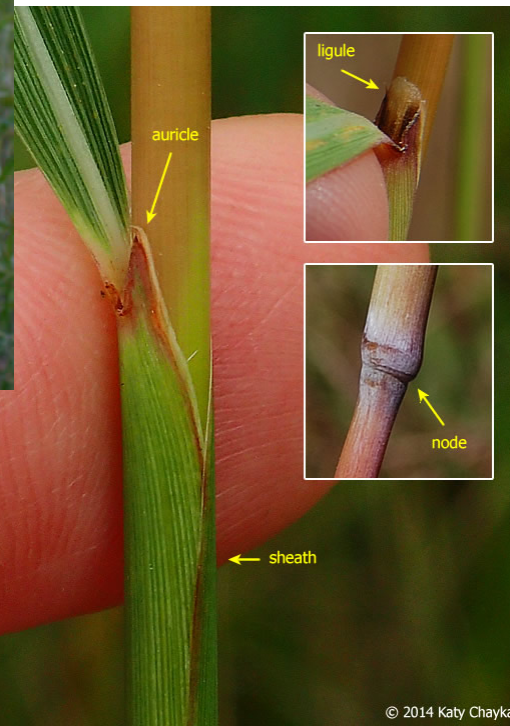
Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) resembles a few other robust grasses in Wisconsin.

**PURPLETOP (N-N)** does not form large patches, **does not have paired spikelets**, and its **spikelets and panicle branches are sticky**. **Spikelets have multiple florets**.

**INDIANGRASS (N)** does not form large patches, has **ligules with pronounced auricles**, and has **spikelets with long awns**.



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# Johnsongrass look alike



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Another late-blooming grass with large inflorescences is the **invasive** common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*). It also forms large colonies via roots, but its **spikelets are not borne in pairs**, spikelets have **2-8 florets**, and the **spikelets are densely hairy**.

