Jointed Goatgrass Fact Sheet

Aegilops cylindrica *Poaceae* Family

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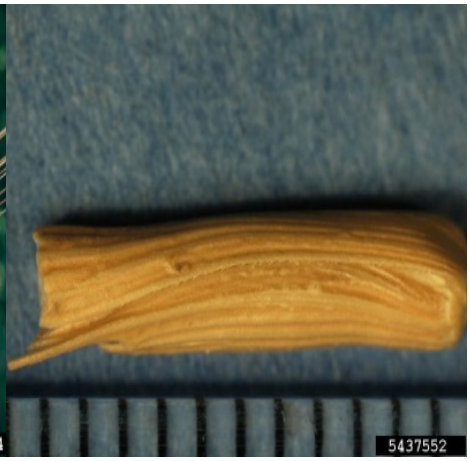

Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Distinguishing Features:

❶ **Flowers**: The plant produces red (when mature) or straw-colored spikes. Spikes are cylindrical and contain 2-12 spikelets per spike.

❷ **Seeds**: The spikelets are awned with the longest awns at the top of the spike. At maturity the seed heads break into individual segments. The plant spreads solely by seed.

❸ **Leaves**: The leaves are alternate, up to 0.5 inches wide with thin hairs along the margins. The connection to the plant stem is short and membranous.

❹ **Flowering Time**: May to June

❺ **Life cycle**: Jointed Goatgrass flowers in early to mid-June. Some jointed Goatgrass seeds germinate early and the remainder of the seeds may persist in the soil for years. Seeds usually germinate from early August - October but they can also germinate in late spring and still mature if temperatures are low enough.

USDA PLANTS Database, USDA NRCS PLANTS Database, Bugwood.org

Impacts:

- Jointed Goatgrass readily invades wheat fields where, once established, it is extremely difficult to control. It is extremely similar to Winter wheat, and therefore cannot be easily eradicated from fields. An infestation can rapidly reduce crop yields by 30-50%.

Control:

- Because of its genetic similarity to Winter Wheat, Jointed Goatgrass is extremely difficult to control without damaging desirable plants, however, some selective herbicides can be effective. Follow advertised directions and warnings prior to herbicide use.
- Jointed Goatgrass does not tolerate tillage well. Small infestations can be controlled through tilling or hand-pulling.
- There are currently no biological control agents available.
- Crop rotations can be effective in controlling Jointed Goatgrass.

SALT LAKE COUNTY
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