

# JOINTED GOATGRASS

*Aegilops cylindrica*

Poaceae, the grass family

Category: Containment

USDA APHIS PPQ - Oxford, North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Jointed goatgrass is a fast growing grass that is most often associated with winter wheat production.
- The plant competes with wheat for light, nutrients, and moisture, reducing crop yields.
- It is genetically similar to and can hybridize with wheat, making it difficult to control selectively.

### Description

- Fast growing, tufted, winter annual grass that produces tillers and can grow up to 4 feet tall.
- Leaves are flat blades arranged alternately, hairy, and can grow to 6 inches long and 1/2 inch wide.
- Narrow, cylindrical spike, slightly tapered towards the apex, growing up to 4.5 inches long with 4-12 fertile spikelets, or 'joints', arranged compactly along the main axis.
- Reddish-light brown seeds resemble grains of winter wheat.

### Introduction and Movement

- Jointed Goatgrass is native to southern Europe and western Asia and was likely introduced to the U.S. as a contaminant in winter wheat seed.
- Inhabits cultivated land such as wheat fields, orchards, and vineyards. Outside of cultivated lands, it inhabits disturbed sites such as roadsides and railways.
- The seeds are primarily dispersed through agricultural practices by hitching a ride on harvesting and grain transportation equipment.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Jointed goatgrass and eradicate infestations on your property.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOCK IT OFF!**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/108330>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



# JOINTED GOATGRASS DISTRIBUTION MAP

