

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Warm-season perennial. Usually rhizomatous, but is a highly variable species with many ecotypes. May grow as an annual in hot, arid climates and at the northern limits of its range.

rhizomes

Form a dense, tangled, tough sod; most occur in the top 7-9 inches (20 cm) of soil, although rhizomes in soft, deep soil may extend deeper. They vary in size from a few inches to several feet in length, and in thickness from 0.25 to 0.75 inch (6.4-19 mm).

leaves

Leaves and aboveground stems are coarse, about **1.6- 5 ft tall**. In flower, total height may reach 12 ft. White, prominent mid-rib.

Inflorescence

4- to 24-inch (10-60 cm) open panicle. Spikelets are paired: 1 is

lemma

sessile and perfect; the other is pedicelled and staminate. Spikelets are 4 to 7 mm in length. Roughly 35 to 350 spikelets per panicle, depending upon ecotype.

seeds

Lemmas are ciliate. They may be awnless or have short (1-15 mm), sometimes twisted awns that aid in seed dispersal.

Seeds are about 2 mm long.



flower color

Elevation:
Up to 6000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Grasslands, non-riparian & riparian areas.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

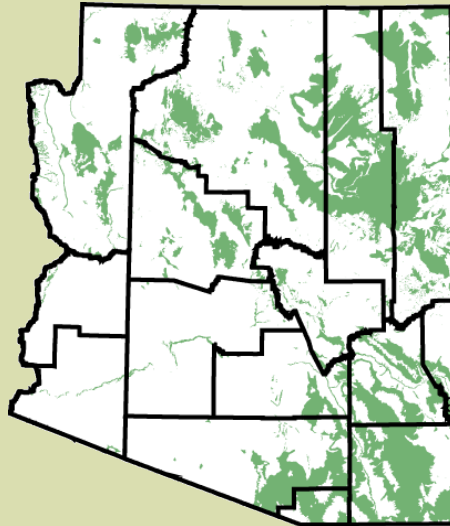
The distinguishing characteristics of *Sorghum halepense* are the ribbed leaf sheath, the conspicuous midrib, the large, purplish panicle and the extensive rhizome system.

Panicum bulbosum, which has been confused with *Sorghum halepense*, can be recognized by its short, knotty rhizomes and bulbous swellings at the base of the culms.

In the U.S., *S. halepense* grows in disturbed lands.

Found in ditches, cultivated fields roadsides and wastelands throughout AZ, commonly growing below 5,000 ft elevation in irrigated croplands.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.



SODN



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