



Ada County Pest of the Month

A quick guide to identifying and controlling invasive plants and animals found in our county



Quick Facts

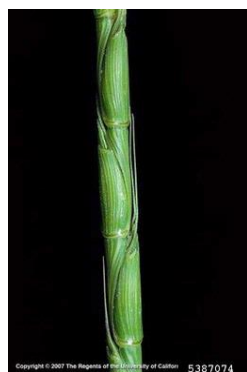


Name: Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*)

Found: Along fencerows and roadsides, in wheat fields, pastures, and rangelands across Ada County with infestations concentrated in the eastern portion.

Briefly: This winter annual grass is native to southern Europe and western Asia. It readily hybridizes with wheat plants because the two species are close relatives, however the seeds produced by hybrid plants are usually sterile.

Identification



Jointed goatgrass is best identified by the plant's seed head - a narrow, cylindrical spike that contains between two and 12 spikelets (joints) that appear stacked. When in the later stages of the plant's life, these spikelets turn brown and can easily snap apart. Each spikelet can contain up to three seeds, which resemble flattened wheat seeds.



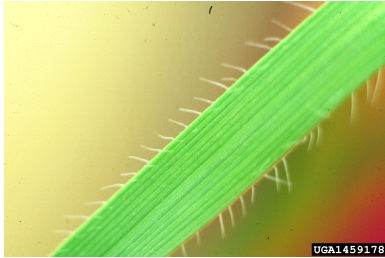
Jointed goatgrass grows up to three feet tall with fibrous roots. The plant's leaves are grasslike; they grow in flat blades about 1/4 to 1/8 an inch wide and four inches long with evenly spaced fine hairs along the leaf edges and down the sheath opening. These hairs are usually not present in winter wheat. If hairs appear on winter wheat leaves, they are longer and randomly spaced.

Jointed goatgrass germinates in the fall and sometimes in the early spring in Ada County, and as it matures, the plant turns a reddish brown color.



More control methods continue on the next page

Control Methods



Manual Control:

Hand-pulling young plants or small infestations of Jointed goatgrass is not effective. Mowing once or twice during the plant's growing season can help to control Jointed goatgrass infestations and can help keep new seeds out of the seed bed. Mowing is most effective just before Jointed goatgrass spikes mature to produce seeds. Mowing before spikes become visible is critical, but if plants continue to grow, a second mowing might be needed to ensure seeds do not propagate. Tilling as a form of manual control is encouraged, but follow up throughout the season, as needed.

Cultural Control:

Improve species competition by planting a desirable fast-growing perennial grass variety. Winter plantings have an early growth advantage and typically have a more-developed root system which allows the desirable vegetation to reach soil moisture and nutrients more quickly than jointed goatgrass.

Chemical Control:

Combine chemical control with any manual or cultural control methods to aggressively target Jointed goatgrass infestations. Look for herbicides that contain the following active ingredients and apply the chemical in the appropriate timeline.

Glyphosate	May through the end of August
Imazapic	April through May and again from September through November
Sulfometuron	February through May and again from September through November

Note: Chemical control of any weed can be difficult and confusing. If you are not experienced in chemical control or do not understand the product label, you should consult a licensed applicator to assist you. Inappropriate application can kill desirable vegetation, and may violate federal law.



**For questions or concerns, please contact us:
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