

Witchgrass

Panicum capillare L.

Grass Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Dense hairs cover the leaf blades on both sides and the sheath
- ❑ Leaves are rolled in the bud and lack auricles
- ❑ Leaves have a white mid-vein
- ❑ It has a fibrous root system
- ❑ Mature plants are 1 to 2' tall
- ❑ A.K.A. 'ticklegrass'
- ❑ Spikelets form a large open panicle with stiff branches each producing a small single seed at the tip



Top & Middle Photos: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc

Biology and ecology

- An annual grass reproducing by seed
- It is a nuisance in lawns and gardens and is also found in waste areas and along roadsides
- It is found throughout the United States
- Palatable for animals before seed heads develop
- If harvested it will lower the quality of hay

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - No known biological control in our area

Cultural - Plant competitive grass or other cover crops. Witchgrass does not compete well with perennial grasses

Mechanical - Cultivation or mowing before seed develops will control this plant. Witchgrass can also be hand pulled

Chemical -the Crop Data Management System currently has 5 pages of products to control witchgrass, including glyphosate (Roundup) and pre-emergent herbicides that will keep annual grasses from germinating



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Where found – Widely scattered throughout the county seen in many garden, lawns, driveways, and cultivated fields