



Jointed Goatgrass

Aegilops cylindrica

- Winter Annual Grass
- Can hybridize
- Seeds can be viable up to 5 years, and produce up to 3,000 seeds
- Thrives in disturbed areas, fields, pastures, and along roadsides
- Spreads by roots and seeds

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Suggested Control Methods for Jointed Goatgrass

Cultural Control Methods

Crop Rotation: Implement a 3-year or longer rotation, avoiding continuous winter wheat. Rotate with broad-leaf crops like sunflowers or corn to allow for different, more effective herbicide options.

Delayed Planting: Delay winter wheat seeding in the fall to allow the first flush of jointed goatgrass to emerge, which will suppress with tillage or herbicides before planting.

Crop Competition: Use higher seeding rates and narrower row spacing to increase wheat competitiveness against the weed.

Tillage: Use shallow tillage to encourage germination in fallow, or deep burial (moldboard plowing) to bury seeds, though this should not be overused to avoid bringing buried seeds back to the surface.

Burning: Post-harvest burning can destroy up to 90% of surface-lying seeds, but should be followed up with other methods.

Sanitation: Clean equipment thoroughly to prevent spreading seed-bearing joints between fields.

Chemical Control Methods

Fallow/Non-Crop Areas: Glyphosate is effective on young, growing plants.

Winter Wheat: Imazapic-can be applied in fall or early spring.

Other Herbicides: Sulfometuron-can be used in the fall or late winter.

Mechanical Control

Mechanical: For small infestations, hand-pulling or using a shovel to remove the root is effective, particularly in moist soil, but requires careful bagging of the material.

Integrated Management Strategy

No single method eradicates jointed goatgrass. Combining crop rotation, competitive planting, and timely herbicide application offers the best long-term control.