



Aegilops cylindrica

Poaceae
Jointed goatgrass



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Winter annual, germinating mid-Sept. to early Nov. One to many erect stems or tillers 15 to 30 inches tall. Reproduces by seed.

flowers

2 to 12 spikelets that appear to connect together with “joints,” but they actually fit into the contour of the rachis. Each spike approx. 1/2 inch long.

The spikes appear reddish to yellow in May and June, and the glumes are ribbed with a keel on one side which extends into a single awn or beard.

leaves

Alternate, with auricles at the base, a blade 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide and evenly spaced hairs.

seeds

At maturity the spike falls off intact and contains one to three viable seeds.



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flower color

Elevation:
Above 3000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Scrublands, desertlands, grasslands, woodlands & forests.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

In northern Arizona common along highway rights-of-way, vacant lots and abandoned cultivated ground. Sites where soil surfaces are intensely modified/ disturbed are likely new habitats.

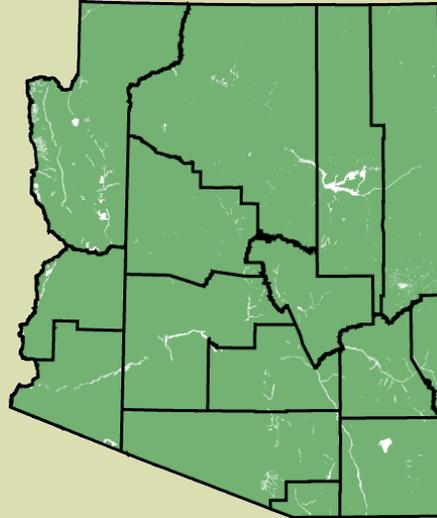
Also common in pasture, wheat crop, waste areas, fence lines and alfalfa fields.

Prefers areas between 800-6000 ft with less than 10-20 inches of rain.

Distinguished from winter wheat by presence of evenly spaced hairs along the leaf blade (see photo at right) $1/8$ to $1/4$ " wide. Hairs go down sheath opening.

Seeds remain viable in the soil for 5 years or more, longer in areas with little precipitation.

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.



Goatgrass (left); wheat (right). Note even spaced hairs on blade margin.