

KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

growth Annual grass, 0.3-1 m tall with erect hollow stems.

flower Flowers on both sides of stem, panicle 40 cm long, 20cm wide, heavily bearded.

spikelet Large and drooping from fine stalks. Florets 2 to 3, all or the lower 2 are awned, shorter than the glumes; Glumes 24-27 mm long, equal, papery at maturity with 7-9 nerves.

leaves Leaves of seedlings twist counter-clockwise when viewed from above; base of leaf blades slightly hairy.

ligule Membranous, with a pointed tip. Sheath rolled with sparse hairs.

lemma 18-20 mm long, hardened and covered with golden brown silky hairs in the lower half and rough to touch above, split in 2 near the tip; all lemmas or the lower 2 have awns. (See photo right)

seeds Yellow to black seeds with a bent, twisted bristle (awn); seeds with a circular scar (sucker mouth) at the base.



Open panicle, drooping spikelets (above)

Elevation:
Up to 8250 feet

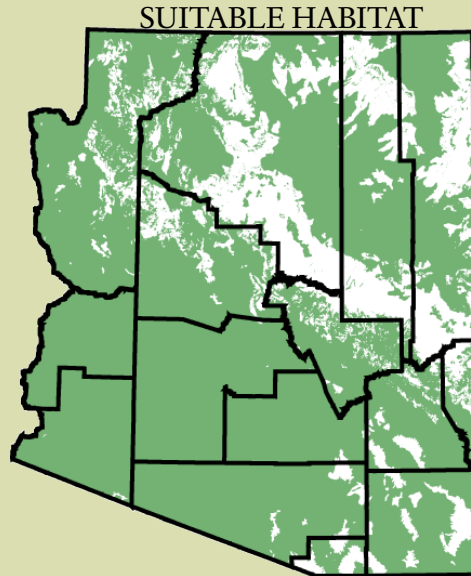
Ecotypes Invaded:
Scrublands, desertlands, grasslands & riparian areas.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

A serious problem in grain fields sown in the spring. Also occurs along roadsides, in valleys and on open slopes of foothill ranges, on cultivated soils and disturbed soils in waste places. In Southern AZ it is found in dry washes.

Seed can remain dormant for up to 10 years, making eradication very difficult once established.

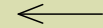
Can be distinguished from domestic oats by the twisted awn and horse shoe shaped scar at its seed base. Both are non-native species.



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.



Pointed, membranous ligule; sparse hairs on lower blade margins.



Seedling leaves twist counter clockwise when viewed from above.

