PLANT FACT SHEET

Sorghum halepense (L.) Pers.

GENUS *Sorghum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Johnson grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Roots, Cereal

CAUTION: The plant can contain cyanide but this is destroyed by cooking.
The grains are used in times of scarcity. The seeds are used to prepare flour. This is often mixed with other flour. They are also used for beer.

DESCRIPTION

A vigorous grass. It keeps growing from year to year. It has underground stems or rhizomes. It grows 0.5-2 m high. The stems form roots at the nodes near the ground. The leaf blades have a prominent midrib. The leaves are without hairs except near the rim of the sheath. The flower is an open panicle. The spikelets are on short stalks. The spikelets have short hairs.

HABITAT

It is often in moist places. It grows in tropical as well as warm temperate places. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

Johnsongrass is a product of introgression with Sorghum bicolor.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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