

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## JOINTED GOATGRASS (*Aegilops cylindrica*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Native to southeastern Europe and western Asia
- Winter annual grass with numerous erect stems branching at the base; 40-60 cm tall
- Alternate leaves 2-5 mm wide and 3-15 cm long
- Leaves sparsely hairy, with hairs evenly spaced along the leaf margin; hairy auricles
- Narrow, cylindrical seed head/spike (5-10 cm long) with alternately arranged spikelets (8-10 mm long) on opposite sides of the spike axis
- Each spikelet contains an average of 2 seeds
- Roots are shallow and fibrous
- Can hybridize with wheat and other closely related species



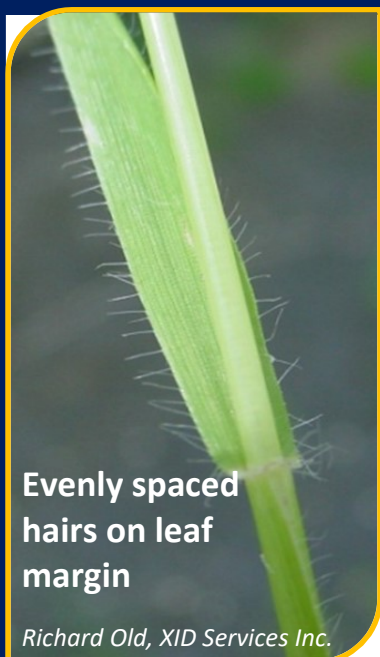
### REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

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[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

**PRIMARY THREAT: Significant losses in winter wheat crop yield and quality.**

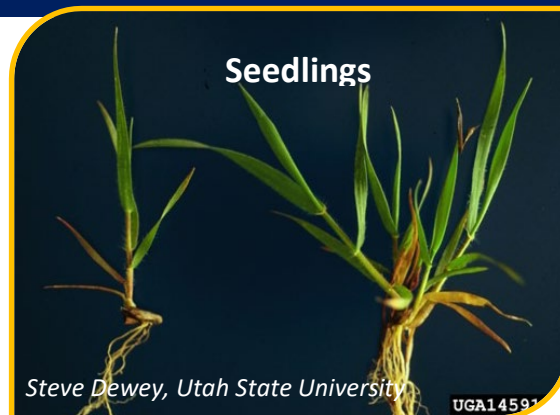


#### BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- Reproduces by seed.
- Seeds mainly spread as a contaminant in cereal crops, like winter wheat, or with farm machinery, straw and in agricultural field runoff.
- Seeds remain viable after passing through cattle.
- New introductions to B.C. could come from grain transport pathways, such as rail lines, or range expansion from infested areas in Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

#### HABITAT

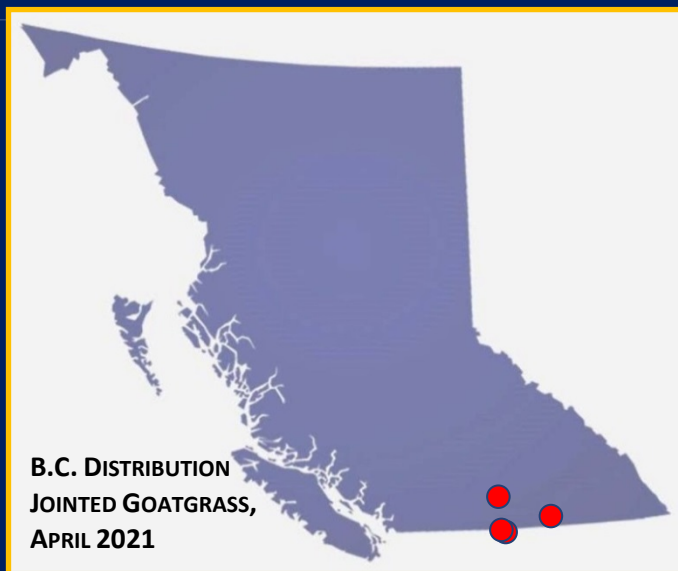
- Prefers cultivated fields, pastures and disturbed areas along fences, ditches, and roadsides.



For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



# JOINTED GOATGRASS (*Aegilops cylindrica*)



## DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Federally regulated Plant Pest and regulated Provincial Noxious Weed
- Management goal provincial eradication
- Present in very limited amounts in B.C.

Region	Status
Okanagan-Similkameen	Contained; control in progress - population in decline.
Kootenay-Boundary	Contained; control in progress - population in decline.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** new sightings

Alternately arranged spikelets

Spikes of Jointed goatgrass (left) and Winter wheat (right)

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Steve Dewey, Utah State University

Sam Brinker, OMNR-NHIS

## JOINTED GOATGRASS IDENTIFICATION & LOOK-ALIKES

	Jointed goatgrass	Winter wheat
Seedlings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reddish – brownish</li> <li>• Thinner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whitish - greenish</li> <li>• Thicker</li> </ul>
Leaf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evenly spaced hairs along leaf margin</li> <li>• Inconspicuous midrib</li> <li>• Shorter (3-15 cm)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few or no hairs</li> <li>• Conspicuous midrib</li> <li>• Longer</li> </ul>
Ligule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter (0.2-0.8 mm)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer (0.6-2.0 mm)</li> </ul>
Spikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cylindrical; narrower</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less cylindrical; wider</li> </ul>
Root	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shallow, fibrous; smaller</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shallow, fibrous; larger</li> </ul>

Jointed goatgrass spikelets in wheat

Phil Westra, Colorado State University

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>

