

Witchgrass

Panicum capillare

NATIVE PLANT-NOT REQUIRED CONTROL IN STEVENS COUNTY

Grass Family

Identification

- Dense hairs cover leaf blades on both sides and the sheath
- Leaves are rolled in the bud and lack auricles
- Leaves have a white mid-vein
- It has a fibrous root system
- Mature plants are 1 to 2 feet tall
- A.K.A. 'ticklegrass'
- Spikelets form a large open panicle with stiff branches each producing a small single seed at the tip



Widely scattered throughout the county seen in many garden, lawns, driveways, and cultivated fields

- An annual grass reproducing by seed
- It is a nuisance in lawns and gardens and is also found in waste areas and along roads
- It is found throughout the United States
- Palatable for animals before seed heads develop
- If harvested it will lower the quality of hay

Control

Prevention- Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological- No known biological control in our area

Cultural- Plant competitive grass or other cover crops. Witchgrass does not compete well with perennial grasses

Mechanical- Cultivation or mowing before seed develops will control this plant. Witchgrass can be hand pulled

Chemical- Crop Data Management System currently has 5 pages of products to control witchgrass, including glyphosate (Roundup) and pre-emergent herbicides that will keep annual grasses from germinating

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Active ingredients that control this plant: Products containing glyphosate are effective- refer to CDMS.net or the *PNW Weed Management Handbook* for more information and options for pre-emergent control