

JOHNSON GRASS

Sorghum halepense (Pers.)

FAMILY: Gramineae

TRIBE: Andropogoneae

GENUS: Sorghum

SPECIES: halepense
Some authors refer to this species as *Holcus halepensis* (L.) or *Andropogon halepensis* (Brot.)



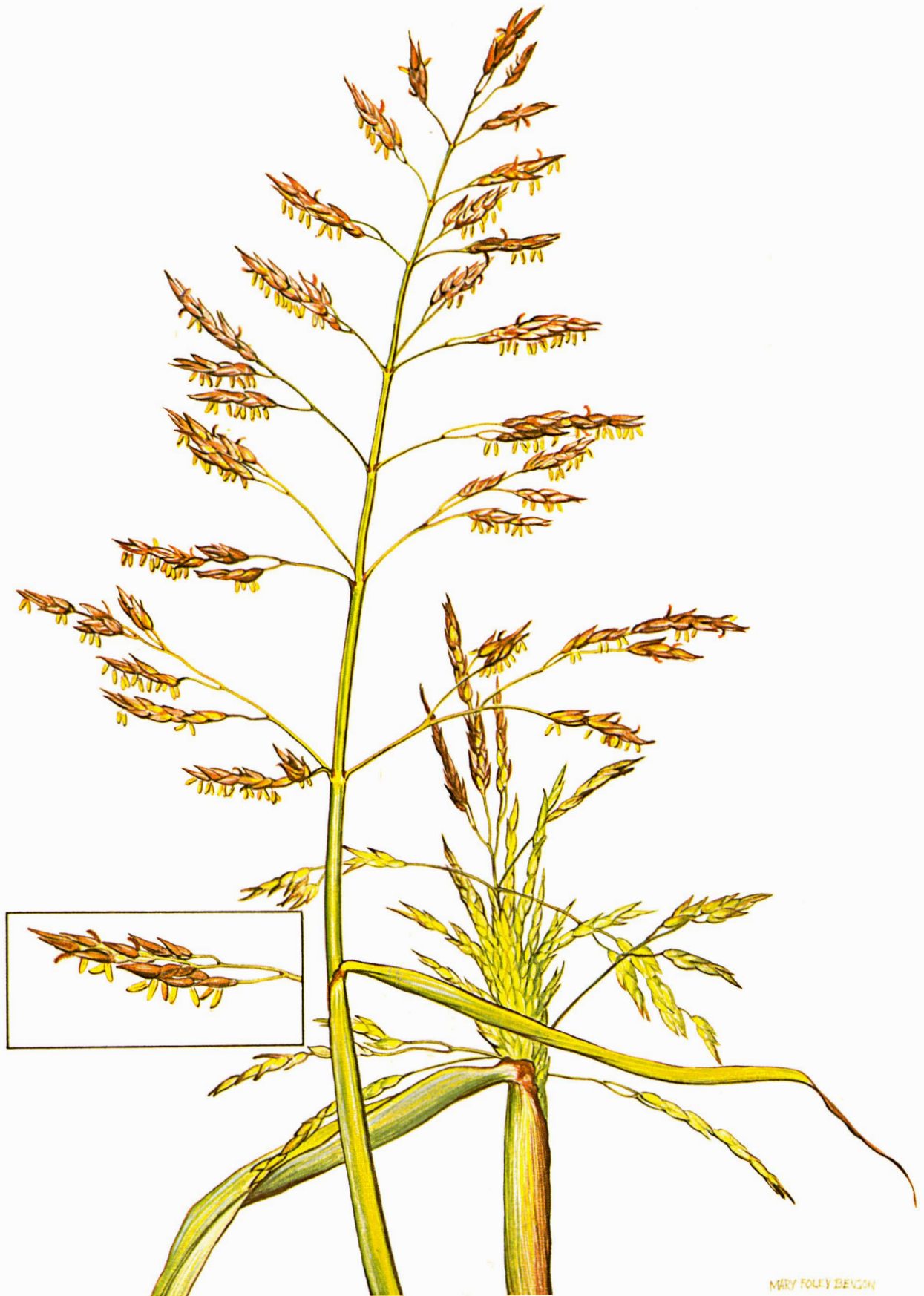
COMMON NAMES: Johnson Grass
Egyptian millet
Evergreen

POLLINATING PERIODS: July to September. June to October in warmer parts of its range.

Johnson Grass is a coarse perennial growing three to six feet tall. A fleshy creeping root stock enables this plant to spread and form dense patches. The loose spreading heads, averaging a foot long, characteristically are a purplish red color. This coupled with its broad flat leaf blades and upright growing habit make for easy recognition.

DISTRIBUTION: Central California south. Southwestern and southern states; Mississippi valley states north to Kansas and Iowa. From the Mississippi eastward to the Atlantic coast. New Jersey and Pennsylvania are the northeastern limits.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: Due to the comparatively large size of the pollen grain, Johnson Grass pollen is not as readily airborne as most grass pollens. Also in some warm moist regions Johnson Grass is extensively blighted by smut, preventing pollination. Though Johnson Grass is generally considered a wide-spread allergic factor the above reasons make it of secondary importance.



Sorghum halepense
(Johnson Grass)