

SHATTERCANE

When Shattercane is a seedling it can look similar to corn or johnsongrass. It grows in tufts becoming nearly seven feet tall. Leaves have a pale midvein. As the plants mature the seed head will begin to droop slightly. Shattercane is an aggressive row crop invader. It can be difficult to remove once it gets into other crops. The grass can hybridize with same species and create more varieties of the plant to control.



Photos courtesy of Weeds of Nebraska and the Great Plains published by Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Control of shattercane can take several years and a variety of approaches. Cut shattercane out of fields in the first week of August. Crop rotations and cover crops have been successful because the seeds need a soil temperature of 65 degrees to begin germinating. Winter wheat, spring oats, and barely will grow early and out compete the emerging shattercane seedlings.