



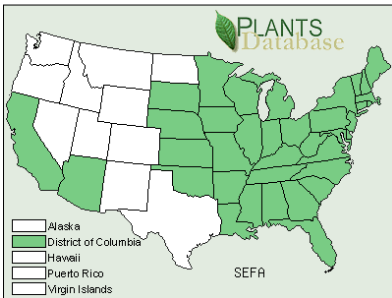
# Japanese Bristlegrass

*Setaria faberi* Herrm.

**Common Names:** Japanese bristlegrass, Chinese foxtail, Chinese millet, giant bristlegrass, giant foxtail, nodding foxtail, tall green bristlegrass

**Native Origin:** Asia

**Description:** An annual monocot in the grass family (*Poaceae*) growing 2 to 4 feet tall. Stems are weak and drop onto other vegetation for support. Leaves are flat, linear, 5 to 20 inches long and .2 to .8 inch wide, and covered with short hairs on upper surface. The elongated, compound flower cluster (panicle) is dense, cylindrical, 3 to 8 inches long, and bending near base with a drooping head. Three to six bristles extend from the base of each spikelet. It reproduces by seeds that are greenish and about 1/16 inch long. Roots are fibrous and shallow.



**Habitat:** It is found in cultivated crops, waste areas, roadsides, fields, pastures, and woods edge. It grows best in fertile sandy soils.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in IL, OH, PA, TN, and VA.

**Ecological Impacts:** It is one of the most troublesome weeds in the Midwestern Corn Belt region. It competes with other vegetation and reduces yields in many crops. In burned prairie areas, it can become a serious pest, frequently forming monoculture pockets.



**Control and Management:** It is often spread by poorly composted manure and "dirty" hay or straw. The seed have an approximate two year lifespan in the soil. To avoid new infestations, use only certified seed, always clean equipment after working in infested areas.

- **Manual-** Remove by hand, dig up, or till before seeds are produced  
*Note-* Fire is not recommended. Fire seems to promote the spread of this plant.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled with a number of herbicides such as metolachlor and nicosulfuron. Follow label and state requirements.

*Note:* Japanese bristlegrass can be resistant herbicides such as- clethodim, fenoxaprop-p-ethyl, fluzafop-p-butyl, quizalofop-p-ethyl, and sethoxydim.

**References:**

www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien), [www.ag.uiuc.edu/~vista/html\\_pubs/WEEDS/35.html](http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~vista/html_pubs/WEEDS/35.html), [www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/giantfoxtail.html](http://www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/giantfoxtail.html), [www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedinfo/setaria.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedinfo/setaria.htm)