

Shattercane

Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench



Life cycle

Erect summer annual.

Leaves

Leaves are rolled in the bud, sparsely hairy at the base. Leaf sheaths are hairless but can be sparsely hairy at maturity. Leaves are 1 to 4 inches wide at maturity with a prominent, white midrib.



Shattercane seedhead.

Ligule

Membranous with a fringe of hairs.



Shattercane in corn.

Stems

Erect, robust stems grow up to 8 feet tall, resembling corn.

Flowers and fruit

The seedhead is a large, open panicle. Spikelets are paired as fertile (long) and sterile (short) florets. Reddish black, rounded, flattened seeds are ellipsoid to ovoid and shiny, they often shatter before crop harvest.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Shattercane plant showing white midrib.

Poaceae (Grass family)