



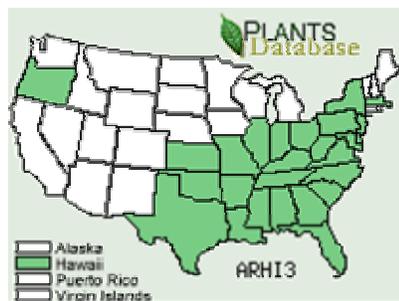
Jointhead Grass

Arthraxon hispidus (Thunb.) Makino

Common Names: jointhead grass, hairy jointgrass, small carpgrass

Native Origin: Eastern Asia: China, Japan, And Korea

Description: *Arthraxon hispidus* is a low-growing creeping annual grass in the Grass Family that grows to a height of 1.5 feet. The ovate to lanceolate leaf blades are 0.75-2.75 inches in length and 0.2-0.6 inches in width. There are hairs along the margins of the leaf blades. The heart-shaped (cordate) bases of the leaves encircle the sheath. The flowers appear from September to October. The individual flowers, or spikelets, are arranged in multiple spike-like racemes, averaging about 1 ½ inches long, that terminate the stems. The stems develop roots at the lower nodes. The seeds are slender and yellowish in color, measuring 1/6-inch long. It reproduces by seeds that can be dispersed by moving water.



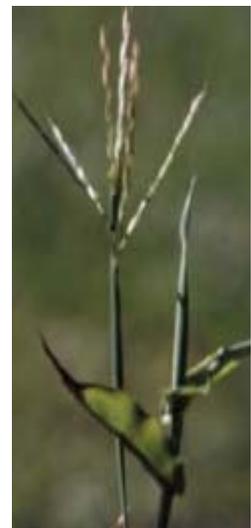
Habitat: It favors sunny moist habitats. It is often found in moist pastures and fields, shaded upland woods, floodplain forests, stream banks, along shorelines, roads and trails where soils remain moist.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in the following states: CT, KY, MD, PA, TN, VA, and WV. In Kentucky it is scattered in some areas and strongly established in only a few areas.

Ecological Impacts: It can form dense stands, particularly along shorelines that may threaten native vegetation. Jointhead grass often occurs with another highly invasive annual grass species, Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*).

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Hand pulling or mowing before seed production.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides approved for wetlands. Repeat applications may be necessary to reduce densities. Follow label and state requirements. Managers should evaluate the specific circumstances of each infestation, seek professional advice and guidance if necessary, and use the herbicide in a manner that is consistent with the product label and other state requirements
- **Biological Control-** Nine species of fungi have been found in association with species of *Arthraxon*, among them, one species (*Bremia graminicola* Naumov) is likely host specific to jointhead grass. Seven other species also have a narrow host range. Eleven insect species are reported to attack *Arthraxon* spp. but all are polyphagous.



References:

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England - webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/browsing.cfm?descriptionid=40, <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/southflor/species/2/arthhisp.htm, Invasive Plants of Asian Origin Established in the United States and Their Natural Enemies, USDA Forest Service, FHTET 2004-05, P. 28-29, www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/arahi.htm