H-SVJN *Bothriochloa laguroides – Sorghum halepense* Herbaceous Vegetation
Silver Beardgrass - Johnsongrass Herbaceous Vegetation

Associations and Alliances
Bothriochloa laguroides – Sorghum halepense
Herbaceous Vegetation

Common Species
Sorghum halepense
Bothriochloa ischaemum
Nassella leucotricha
Schizachyrium scoparium
Clematis drummondii
Merremia dissecta
Lactuca serriola
Torilis arvensis

Description
This map class occurs at the Missions Unit on rather large fields that are maintained by mowing. It was not found on the Rancho Unit but a few small areas were mapped in the environs. This type is largely dependent on past management including planting, fire suppression, and dispersal. The vegetation is dominated by exotic mid- and tall grasses, particularly *Sorghum halepense* and *Bothriochloa ischaemum.* Native prairie grasses (*Nassella leucotricha* and *Schizachyrium scoparium*) commonly persist as important associates. Weedy forbs (*Lactuca serriola*, *Torilis arvensis*) and herbaceous vines (*Clematis drummondii*, *Merremia dissecta*) are frequent and often form large patches. On the 2003 color infrared imagery this type appeared light blue to gray with patches of red likely due to the presence of other grasses or forbs.

Range and Distribution

Representative Ground Photo

Photo Signature Example

NEW *Bothriochloa laguroides – Sorghum halepense* Herbaceous Vegetation

Translated Name: Silver Bluestem – Johnsongrass Herbaceous Vegetation
Common Name: Silver Bluestem – Johnsongrass Herbaceous Vegetation

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

The environmental factors that influence the composition and structure of this community are: climate, topography, soils, past management and chance historical events. This community occurs on the original terraces and natural levees, as well as some artificial levees (from fill dredged for channelization) bordering the San Antonio River. The community occurs on clay loams originally derived from silt and clay alluvium. Immediately adjacent to the channelized banks of the river, the clay loam soils overlie gravel fill that was dredged from the river channel. Water availability is less than in pre-urbanized times due to lowering of the water table through channelization and rising of the levees along the channel. Composition at any given site is probably largely dependent on past management, particularly fire suppression, and chance introduction of exotic species. Flooding of major proportions does not occur as it once did due to impoundments and channelization along the river.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

The canopy is typically 1-2 m high with a dense cover of about 80%, except for scattered shrubs and saplings that constitute no more than 5% cover. The vegetation is dominated by exotic mid- and tall grasses, particularly *Sorghum halepense* and *Bothriochloa ischaemum.* Native prairie grasses (*Nassella leucotricha* and *Schizachyrium scoparium*) commonly persist as important associates. Weedy forbs (*Lactuca serriola*, *Torilis arvensis*)and herbaceous vines (*Clematis drummondii, Merremia dissecta*) are frequent and often form large patches.

FLORISTIC COMPOSITION

Species Name	Stratum	Lifeform
Sorghum halepense	Herb (field)	Graminoid
Bothriochloa ischaemum	Herb (field)	Graminoid
Nassella leucotricha	Herb (field)	Graminoid
Schizachyrium scoparium	Herb (field)	Graminoid
Clematis drummondii	Herb (field)	Vine/liana
Merremia dissecta	Herb (field)	Vine/liana
Lactuca serriola	Herb (field)	Forb
Torilis arvensis	Herb (field)	Forb

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Species Name	GRank	Animal	Note (*specify Rare (geog area), Invasive, Animal, or Other*)
Cynodon dactylon			Subinvasive alien
Sorghum halepense			Subinvasive alien
Torilis arvensis			Invasive alien

CLASSIFICATION & OTHER COMMENTS

Classification Comments:
Other Comments:

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

This vegetation occurs only in the San Antonio Unit on both raised artificial and natural terraces along the San Antonio River, especially in the Espada and San Juan *Labores*.

ELEMENT SOURCES

Inventory Notes:
Plots: SAAN.3, SAAN.7, SAAN.10
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