

Shattercane (Sorghum bicolor)



Identifying Characteristic:

Racemes tend to lean to one side of the panicle

Key Identifying Characteristic:

Fibrous root system that often forms brace roots



Mature shattercane can grow to a height of 4 to 9 feet.

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Key Identifying Characteristic:

Auricles area absent

Leaf sheaths are often covered with a waxy, whitish film or bloom

Key Identifying Characteristic:

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Prominent white to pale green midvein





Membranous ligule



The inflorescence (seedhead) is initially pale green or violet-green, but mature into dark reddish or purplish-brown.





The dark red to black seeds are flattened, oval and shiny and typically covered with deep purple to black chaff.

Ripening Stage

Hard dough (mature) stage: The seed is fully hardened, filled, and ready

Soft dough stage: The seed begins to harden, but is still soft and doughy.

Medium dough stage: The seed continues to harden, but is still somewhat doughy.

