

SELECTED SETARIA SPECIES SEED IDENTIFICATIONS

Abstract

Grasses in the genus *Setaria* are economically important weeds found in every region of the United States. Species within this genus can decrease yields of corn, soybeans, oats, and other grains by up to 28 percent (Fausey *et al.*, 1997). In particular, *Setaria faberi*, *Setaria parviflora*, *Setaria pumila* subsp. *pumila*, *Setaria pumila* subsp. *pallidifusca*, and *Setaria viridis* are very common and troublesome weeds. Distinguishing between these seeds is difficult because of very similar physical characteristics. However, some key differences in seed morphology, such as size, surface texture, and visibility of glossy margins, can be used to distinguish between these species. Correct identification of seeds of common *Setaria* species during purity and noxious exams is vital to assisting growers in developing effective weed management programs and to help seed companies market their seeds.

Ernest L. Allen, Botanist
USDA-AMS-LS-SRTB
Gastonia, NC
Ernest.allen@ams.usda.gov
704-810-8874