**Shattercane**  
*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench

**Poaceae** (Grass family)

**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.

**Ligule**  
Membranous with a fringe of hairs.

**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.

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Shattercane in corn.  
Shattercane seedhead.  
Shattercane plant showing white midrib.