## Prevention
- Use certified weed-seed-free crop seeds to prevent the introduction of itch grass weed to new fields since it is easily dispersed via crop seeds.
- Control itch grass weeds near waterways to prevent spread during flooding and storm events.
- Clean tools and farm machinery after use outside field by removing lumps of soil and debris attached to the machine to prevent spread of weed seeds.

## Monitoring
- Inspect the maize fields weekly after sowing for itch grass.
- Look for an erect, abundantly tillering annual grass with pale, green leaves, brace roots near the base of the plant, a cylinder-shaped seed head.
- It also has fine hairs on the leaf sheath that can irritate the skin.
- Itch grass is usually about 50 to 100 cm high, but can grow up to 4 m.
- Its flower-head is thin cylinder-shaped and 3-15 cm long.
- Consider direct control when the weed is spotted at 10-15 different locations in the young maize field.

## Direct Control
- Hand-pull weeds between maize plants when the weeds are young. Wear gloves to prevent irritation by the fine hairs on the weed.
- If the itch grass is still not seeding, you can use it as mulch.
- Remove any individual large itch grass weeds close to the field before seed set.

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**Ghana**

**CREATED/UPDATED:** May 2016  
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