

Chinese silvergrass

Miscanthus sinensis

Description

Introduced to the United States as an ornamental. *<i>Extremely flammable</i>* and increases fire risks of invaded areas.

Habit

Highly variable, robust, perennial, grows from 5-10 ft in height. Usually found in large tufts.

Leaves

Elongate, 3 ft in length and 1 in across, silver-white midrib, tips of the leaves are sharp and re-curving.

Stems

Erect, very large, vertical, densely bunched, very flexible and spread or droop.

Flowers

Fan shaped terminal panicle grows 6-24 in long and can be silvery to pale pink in color. Branches of the panicle are erect or ascending and reach full maturity in the fall. Glabrous spikelets are





very small, yellow brown in color and encircled at the base with white or purple colored hairs. The fertile lemma contains an awn that is spirally twisted at its base.

Fruits and Seeds

Seeds produced are dispersed mechanically or through wind.

Habitat

Native to China, Japan and Korea. Found in forest margins, along roadsides, and disturbed sites.

Reproduction

Vegetatively through rhizomes and by seeds dispersed mechanically or by the wind.

Similar

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) due to its large size. Sugarcane plumeless (*Saccharum giganteum*) due to its large plume and arching leaves.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Digging out plants will probably result in resprouts and would need follow-up treatments. Similarly, disking and cutting methods may spread rhizome pieces into clean areas. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or imazapyr.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).