

Japanese stiltgrass

Microstegium vimineum

Description

Introduced into the United States in Tennessee around 1919 and likely escaped as a result of its use as a packing material for porcelain.

Habit

Annual; grass, reaching 1 m (3.25 ft) in length. Lies on ground and roots at nodes along stems; upright branches look like individual plants.

Leaves

Alternate, pale green; asymmetrical; lanceolate; slightly pubescent; 5-8 cm (1.25-2 in) long, with a silvery line along the center of the blade.

Stems

Thin, weak roots form along the stem at nodes.

Flowers

Terminal racemes bear chasmogamous flowers,



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while axillary racemes bear cleistogamous flowers.

Fruits and Seeds

2.8-3.0 mm, ellipsoid achenes.

Habitat

Native to Asia and Japan; shade tolerant/ does not tolerate full sun or standing water. Found in streams and riverbanks, moist forest, roadsides, ditches on moist soils.

Reproduction

By seed. Very abundant which attach to animals, clothing; appears to be dispersed by deer. Seed persists in the seed bank for a long time.

Similar

Native whitegrass (*Leersia virginica*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor shady paths, roadsides, moist sites in the fall; effectively controlled using any of the several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate.

Credits

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