MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

PRIORITY

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, while axillary racemes bear cleistogamous flowers.

Fruits and Seeds

Source: MISIN. 2024. Midwest Invasive Species Information Network. Michigan State University - Applied Spatial Ecology and Technical Services Laboratory. Available online at https://www.misin.msu.edu/facts/detail.php?id=26.

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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