Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental and Geographic Information Center
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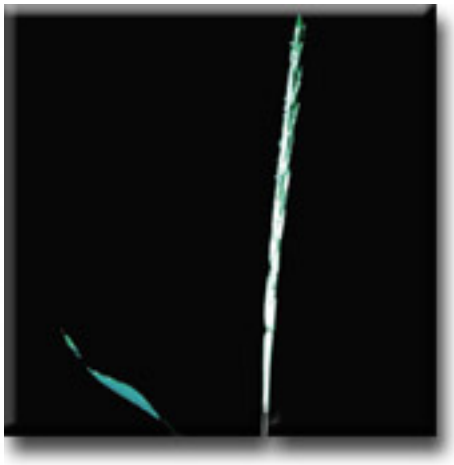
Invasive Plant Information Sheet



Japanese Stilt Grass Microstegium vimineum Grass Family (Poaceae/Gramineae)

Ecological Impact: Japanese stilt grass readily establishes in disturbed areas like floodplains and areas that are mowed or tilled. It is adapted to low light conditions and prefers moist, shaded locations where it forms dense stands that displace native understory vegetation.

Control Methods: The most effective control method for Japanese stilt grass is to prevent its spread into natural plant communities by avoiding disturbance to the vegetation and soils of these areas. Early control of new infestations will greatly reduce the likelihood of establishment. Small populations are fairly easy to eradicate by hand pulling or cutting. Large populations may require herbicide treatment.

Mechanical Control: Small populations can be controlled and often eliminated by hand pulling or cutting. Hand removal is best done in August or early September when plants are in full bloom, but before seeds are produced. Pulling earlier in the summer disturbs the soil and allows for germination of new plants from the seed bank. For larger stands, a more effective method is to cut the plants in late summer using a mower or weed whacker. Being an annual, Japanese stilt grass cut late in the season will die back and not produce new shoots. Seeds remain viable in the soil for at least three years and germinate readily when the soil is disturbed. Annual monitoring is suggested for at least seven years to exhaust the seed bank.

Chemical Control: Extensive populations can be controlled by applying a systemic herbicide like glyphosate (e.g., RoundupTM or RodeoTM), an herbicidal soap, or herbicides specific to grasses. If applying glyphosate and plants are in or near wetlands, only RodeoTM should be used. Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide that will kill all vegetation. Thus, managers should be cautious not to spray so heavily that the herbicide drips off the leaves.

Biological Control: There are no known methods of biological control.

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