

IDENTIFY

JAPANESE STILTGRASS | Chuck Bergeron, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



JAPANESE STILTGRASS

(*Microstegium vimineum*)

Japanese stilt grass readily **invades disturbed areas**, especially those subject to regular mowing, foot traffic or flooding and **can replace native vegetation in an area within 3-5 years**. One plant regularly produces 100 seeds in a growing season, but some individuals may produce up to 1,000 seeds. Seeds can remain viable in the soil's seed bank for up to seven years.

CHARACTERISTICS

Japanese stiltgrass is an annual grass with sprawling habit that can reach a height of 2–3½ feet. Its leaves are pale green, 1–3 inches long, lance-shaped, and have a shiny, distinctive mid-rib. Japanese stiltgrass produces slender stalks of flowers in late summer (August–October), followed by dry fruits soon afterwards. Leaves develop a purplish tinge in autumn. After fruit production, the entire plant dies.

WHERE FROM

Native to Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia and India, Japanese stilt grass entered the United States in 1919 after escaping from packing materials used to ship porcelain.



JAPANESE STILTGRASS
James H. Miller & Ted Bodner,
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WHERE FOUND

It is established in 16 states, including Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. Japanese stiltgrass prefers moist, acidic-to-neutral soils that are high in nitrogen, but can be found in other habitats, including moist woodlands, floodplains, wetlands, uplands, fields, thickets, paths, clearings, roadsides and ditches,

utility corridors and gardens. It is extremely adaptable to low light and low moisture environments, making it a threat to native species in habitats ranging from full sun to full shade and from wet to dry environments. It forms a dense, extensive and monotypic patch making it difficult for native species to compete for light.



JAPANESE STILTGRASS
David J. Moorhead,
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JAPANESE STILTGRASS
Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan,
Bugwood.org

CONTROL

CHEMICAL METHOD

Contact and systemic herbicides, such as glyphosate, imazapyr, and triclopyr, are effective in controlling Japanese stiltgrass. When working in a wetland area or near water, a formula such as *Rodeo* should be used,

which is labeled for application in wetlands. Another proven herbicide option is *Vantage* (active ingredient, sethoxydim). Alternatively, a pre-emergent herbicide, such as *Plateau*, may be used in the spring.

MECHANICAL METHOD

Hand pulling of Japanese stiltgrass can be effective if it is thorough and timed correctly, that is from mid-July through mid-September. However, hand pulling can cause unnecessary disturbance to the soil, which may result in additional

germination and/or adding seeds to the seed bank. Pulled plants should be taken offsite, as they will continue to produce seed even after being pulled. Mowing in late summer, prior to the plant setting seed (August–September), can be effective.

REMEMBER

When removing,
be careful
not to remove
or destroy
desirable species.

(Read and follow all
herbicide labels carefully
before use.)