

Microstegium vimineum – Japanese Stilt Grass
Invasive grass



*An extremely dense Japanese stilt grass invasion.
Photo: Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org*

Microstegium vimineum – Japanese Stilt Grass

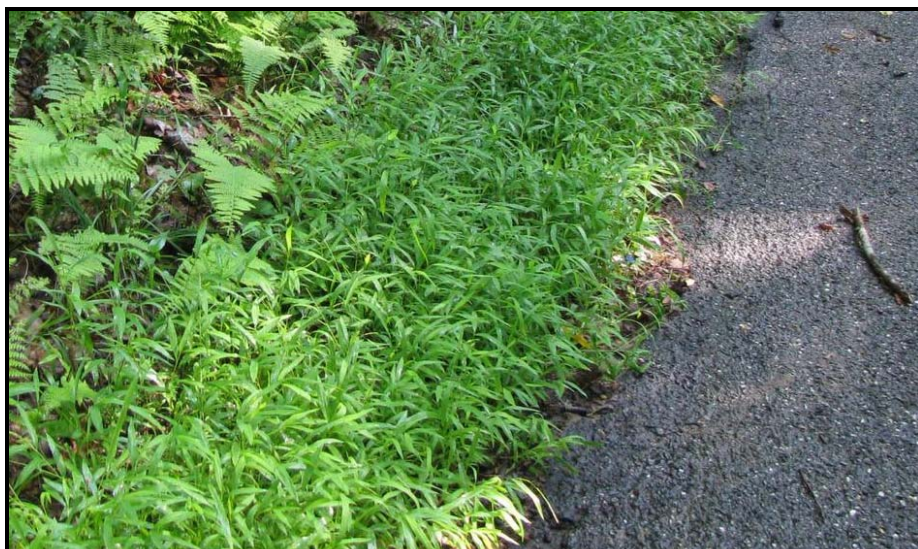
Invasive grass



Yellowish to pale purple fall color of Japanese stilt grass.
Photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE



Japanese stilt grass foliage.
Photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE



Japanese stilt grass stand along a road side.
Photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE



Japanese stilt grass is an annual with fibrous roots.
Photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE

Comparison

Microstegium vimineum vs. *Leersia virginica* Japanese Stilt Grass (invasive) vs. **White Grass (native)**

Japanese Stilt Grass Traits:

- **Native Region:** Asia
- **Inflorescence:** Terminal spike-like branches
- **Glumes:** Present
- **Lemma:** Awns present or absent
- **Flowering Initiation:** Mid-September
- **Nodes:** Smooth
- **Roots:** Fibrous
- **Annual/Perennial:** Annual
- **Fall Color:** Yellowish to pale purple

White Grass Traits:

- **Native Region:** Eastern N. America
- **Inflorescence:** Open panicle
- **Glumes:** Absent
- **Lemma:** Awns present
- **Flowering Initiation:** Early to mid-August
- **Nodes:** Erect hairy
- **Roots:** Scaly rhizomes
- **Annual/Perennial:** Perennial
- **Fall Color:** Green to straw-colored

Comparison

Microstegium vimineum vs. *Leersia virginica* Japanese Stilt Grass (invasive) vs. **White Grass (native)**



Comparison of terminal spike-like branches of *Microstegium vimineum* (bottom) & open panicle of *Leersia virginica* (top).
Photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE



Japanese stilt grass flowers (left) & white grass flowers (right). Left photo: Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. Right photo: Donald Cameron, gobotany/newenglandwild.org



Japanese stilt grass foliage (top) and white grass foliage (bottom).
Photos: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE, Discoverlife.org



Smooth Japanese stilt grass nodes (left) and hairy white grass nodes (right). Left photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE. Right photo: Christopher Noll, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point