

Japanese Stiltgrass

Microstegium vimineum



Annual or short-lived perennial grass

Widespread in all three counties.

Grows to three feet tall, but most often in sprawling fashion. Flowers and seeds borne on one to six, slender, one to two inch long heads in Sept. and Oct. Best identified by silver streak along center of upper leaf

surface.

Adapted to growing in full shade but can also tolerate full sun.

Invades a wide variety of habitats including stream banks, floodplains, ditches, roadsides, trail edges and yards.

Seeds remain viable in soil at least three years.

Japanese Stiltgrass - Control Methods

Hand pulling – For small patches, repeated pulling of entire plant and root systems is effective. The plants can self-fertilize. If seeds are developing the plant must be bagged and removed from the site. Repeated pulling may be required until seed bank is depleted.

April - August

Mowing – Mowing or ‘weed whacking’ is an effective control method if done in late summer (September) when the plants are in peak bloom but before seeds are produced. This method is best used in areas where mowing equipment will not disturb native vegetation.

September

Foliar Spray – For large infestations a 0.5% solution of Glyphosate may be the most efficient means of control. For effective control with herbicides, healthy green leaves must be present at application time and temperatures must be above 50° F.

April – September

All equipment used in areas infested with stiltgrass must be cleaned entirely prior to use in uninfested areas to limit likelihood of spread.