

Microstegium vimineum

**NON-NATIVE
INVASIVE**



Japanese stiltgrass

Family Poaceae

Origin Non-native

WIS Code FAC CoC -5

DESCRIPTION

This non-native is a wiry, branching, annual grass (60 cm to 1 m tall) with stems sprawling along the soil and rooting at the nodes (stolons). Roots are very shallow and plants easily pulled. Leaves are pale green, alternate, narrow, lance-shaped (3 to 8 cm long) with an off-center white mid-vein that shines like plastic wrap.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

August through October. Flower heads are spike-like and spikelets occur in pairs close to the flowering stem.

HABITAT

Floodplain forests, shaded forest clearings, swamp hummocks, edges of ponds and lakes, stream banks, sand and gravel bars, moist to dry disturbed sites.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Arthraxon hispidus, small carpetgrass, also a non-native with similar sprawling form has heart-shaped leaves (not lance-shaped) that clasp the stem (*M. vimineum* leaves non-clasping) and lacks the white mid-vein. *Leersia virginica*, whitegrass, also often sprawling has longer leaves with rings of downward-pointing hairs at the stem nodes and pyramid flower stalks (not spike-like flower stalks). See the plant pages for *Arthraxon hispidus* and *Leersia oryzoides* for more details.



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