**Microstegium vimineum**

Japanese stiltgrass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Poaceae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Non-native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIS Code</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.