

Japanese Stiltgrass

Management for Homeowners

Identify before proceeding with any management technique. Japanese stiltgrass has many native look-alikes. Removing native plants by mistake undermines any benefit of removing stiltgrass. Identification characteristics are located on the back of this handout.

Mow in early to mid September, before seed has developed. Monitor until the first frost to ensure any regrowth does not develop seed. To be effective, suspend mowing activities throughout spring and summer.

Hand Pull throughout the growing season by pulling the plant in its entirety. If followed by regrowth from seed stored within the soil, continue to hand pull or mow in the fall as described above. In combination with fall mowing, this approach depletes the seed bank faster but requires more energy and effort. Hand pulling is most suitable for small scale areas.

Mulch and Seed with native species to discourage regrowth of Japanese stiltgrass. Native groundcovers and naturally occurring leaf litter, as well as a dense forest sub-canopy and shrub layer, create a more resilient native plant community.

Monitor for a minimum period of 5-7 years.

Chemical Management

Chemical control of Japanese stiltgrass should be performed by licensed professionals.

Japanese Stiltgrass

Microstegium vimineum

Distinguishing features:

Leaf tapered at both ends with pale shiny midrib on upper surface; no hairs at nodes of stems; leaves without scabrous edges; flowers and fruits later in fall than most native grasses with some overlap; stems turn bright red in fall.¹

Native look-alikes:

Whitegrass (*Leersia virginica*)
Smartweed (*Polygonum spp.*)

Native alternatives:

Inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*)
Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)



Photo Credit: Monroe County IRIS²

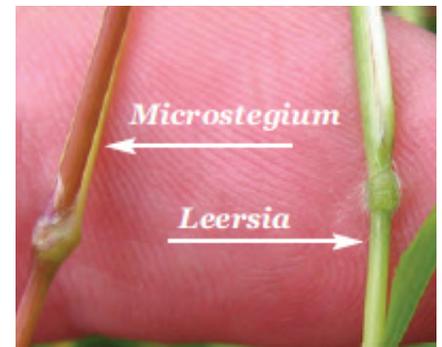


Photo Credit: Mistaken Identity? Invasive Plants and their Native Look-alikes.¹

References

1. Sarver M, Treher A, Wilson L, Naczi R, Kuehn F. Mistaken Identity? Invasive Plants and their Native Look-alikes [Internet]. Dover (DE): Delaware Department of Agriculture; 2008 [cited 2014 Jul 15]. Available from: http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf
2. Top 10 Invasives in Monroe County, Indiana [Internet]. Monroe County's Identify and Remove Invasive Species. [cited 2014 Oct 3]. Available from: <http://mc-iris.org/top-10-invasives.html>