

# JAPANESE STILTGRASS

*Microstegium vimineum*



University of Georgia - Chuck Bargeron

<b>Mature Height</b>	2 to 4 feet	<b>Soil Type</b>	All types
<b>Mature Spread</b>	Colonies	<b>Flower Color</b>	Green
<b>Mature Form</b>	Upright grass	<b>Foliage Color</b>	Green with silver midrib
<b>Growth Rate</b>	Very Rapid	<b>Fall Color</b>	Green to brown
<b>Sun Exposure</b>	Full sun to deep shade		
<b>Soil Moisture</b>	Prefers moist but grows on all sites		

Japanese Stiltgrass is another invasive plant that is so unpalatable that deer won't eat it. They move off to browse on young trees ruining them for future timber production. It is a native of southeast Asia and probably came to the United States as packing material for porcelain. It is an annual grass that reseeds itself. Seed is often carried on the feet of animals and humans to start new colonies. It is highly invasive in moist areas, especially in woodland wetlands. An identifying characteristic is the silver strip on the leaves as seen in the picture below. It threatens native understory in full sun to deep shade and spreads rapidly in disturbed areas including areas of deer, turkey and other wildlife traffic or eating areas. Control can be by pulling the shallow rooted plants but keep in mind that this disturbs the soil creating the problem of reinfestation. Using grass specific herbicides reduces the soil disturbance and protects non target broadleaf plants. Read and follow the entire label for herbicides. Mowing in late summer (before seed formation) can also be effective.



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This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

