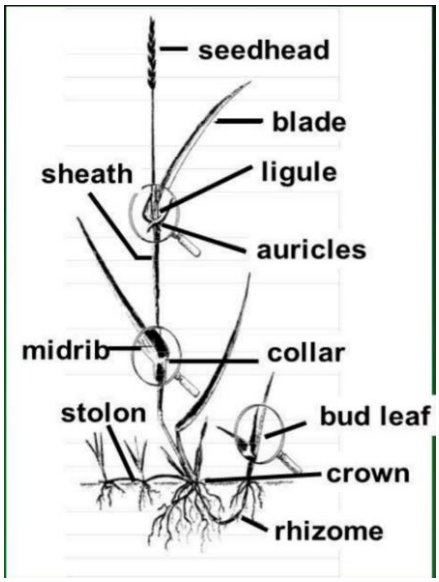
GRASSY WEEDS

TITLE:	**JAPANESE STILTGRASS**
LATIN NAME:	*Microstegium vimineum*
FAMILY:	Poaceae
OVERALL DESCRIPTION:	
Shallow rooted. Multiple, sprawling, hairless stems, branching near the base. Stems may have some hair just below leaves on leaf sheath; Leaves alternate, well-spaced, lance shaped, pointed at each end. Can matures to around 3 feet. Invasive.	
LIFE CYCLE	Summer annual
SEASONS OF GROWTH	Early Spring to Fall
LEAF SHEATHS	Round; hairy margin
FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD	Inflorescence of multiple thin, hairy spikes with closed flowers or seeds clustered along them; originate at leaf axils or ends of stems; 1-3 spikes. Thin seed heads flower in late summer to fall.
LEAF BLADES	Smooth edges; lanceolate, off-center vein; up to 4 inches long and 0.5 inch wide; lime-colored with silver hair-like stripes along the upper surface. Up to 2 ft. tall
LEAF VERNATION	Rolled
LIGULE	Short, membranous ligule with hairs on the backside.
AURICLE	Absent
ROOTS	Rootlets “stilt” roots, thin, weak shallow fibrous root system
ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS	Leaf blades broader than many grasses; upper blade sparsely hairy; sheath margin hairy.



TYPICAL GRASSY WEED

TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH	Sun or shade; acidic to neutral soil; can yield 1,000 seeds annual. Prefers road edges, damp lawns or shady areas prone to flooding.
KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER	Know how to identify the weeds in your yard. Japanese stiltgrass is invasive. Growing and maintaining a dense, healthy lawn is the best preventative method to discourage growth of Japanese stiltgrass.
CULTURAL CONTROL	Maintaining healthy, dense turf that compete and prevent weed establishment. Proper seed selection, mowing, liming and fertilizing according to soil test, watering, etc. are important.
MECHANICAL CONTROL	Easily hand pulled in moist soil due to weak and shallow root system; eradication may take years due to seed bank, which remains viable for up to 3 years.
CHEMICAL CONTROL	Pre-emergent products may be applied in early to mid-March based on germination that is three to four weeks earlier than most summer annual weeds. Effective products contacting the following active ingredients: Benefin & Trifluralin; Benefin & Oryzalin; Oryzalin; Pendimethalin; or Prodiamine (Table 5-6 PMG) Hand weeding a month prior to treatment can increase control and diversity of revegetation. Post-emergent products: Fenoxaprop; Fluazifop; or Sethoxydim (Table 5-7, 2020 PMG)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION	University of Maryland Extension (Extension.umd.edu) https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rn/rn_nrs247.pdf New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1237/ https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS119/ Center for invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, University of Georgia https://www.bugwood.org Alabama Cooperative Extension "Field Guide to The Identification of Japanese Stiltgrass" https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/field-guide-to-the-identification-of-japanese-stiltgrass NC State Extension "Japanese Stiltgrass Identification and Management" https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/japanese-stiltgrass-identification-and-management Photo Credits: Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org Leslie J. Mehrhoff,University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org
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