

Japanese stiltgrass

Microstegium vimineum



HABITAT:

- Prefers moist, shady areas such as wooded areas near streams and wetlands
- Spreads in disturbed areas

ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS:

- Forms thick patches that shade out other plants and changes soil chemistry to inhibit growth of nearby native species



TIMING:

- Germinates in June
- Flowers in late August
- Produces seed from September - early November

MANAGEMENT:

- Pull by hand before it sets seed 3-4 times throughout the summer months to exhaust seed bank
- Dispose of in a bag; do not compost

Plant at a Glance:

1. **Leaf:** tapered at both ends, divided into unequal halves by silvery line, about 2-3 in long
2. **Flower:** pink clusters at tip of long and slender stalks
3. **Fruit:** dry fruit, red to yellow in color

Native Alternative:

White grass, *Leersia virginica*^{1, 2}

- Perennial grass, flowers July - September
- **Habitat:** swamps and moist woods
- **Benefits and Uses:** larval host of the Northern pearly eye
- **Growing tips:** grows best in light shade or partial sun in moist conditions with rich, loamy soil



References: ¹"Leersia virginica (Whitegrass) | NPIN." *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - The University of Texas at Austin*. The University of Texas, n.d. Web. 31 July 2012. <http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=LEVI2>. ²Hilty, John. "White Grass (*Leersia virginica*)." *Illinois Wildflowers*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2012. <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/white_grass.htm>.

Photos: Hurst, Steve, Miller, James H. *Japanese Stiltgrass, Microstegium vimineum (Trin.) A. Camus*. N.d., United States. *Invasive.org: Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health*. Web. 7 Sept. 2012. , Czarapata, Elizabeth. *Flowering structure*. N.d., Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. Web. 7 Sept. 2012.