

# Invasive Species Alert

## Japanese Stiltgrass

(*Microstegium vimineum*)

\*Detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Delicate, low-growing annual grass
- Stems sprawl over one another and root at nodes
- Short (3-8 cm) alternate leaves are pale green, lance-shaped with a distinctive, shiny mid-rib, slightly off-center



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**Habitat:** This annual grass is very adaptable and tolerates varying levels of soil acidity and moisture but prefers forested floodplains. It will grow almost anywhere from deep shade to full sun.

**Native Range:** China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and India

**U.S. Distribution:** Japanese stiltgrass was first documented in Tennessee in 1919, introduced as a packing material for goods from Asia. It has spread across much of the eastern U.S. as far north as New Hampshire and as far south as Texas.

**Local Concern:** Stiltgrass produces 100-1,000 seeds per plant and can spread rapidly by water flow, wildlife, foot and vehicular traffic. Deer will browse native plants and avoid stiltgrass, which allows for additional spreading.

**Other Common Names:** Nepalese browntop, Asian stilt grass, Nepal, eulalia.



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