

# Invasive Species Alert

## 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:** 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.



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**Local Concern:** Stiltgrass produces 100 to 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:** Japanese stiltgrass, Nepalese browntop, Asian stilt grass, Nepal, eulalia.

To report this species, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](http://Michigan.gov/Invasives) for contact information. Report online at [MISIN.MSU.edu](http://MISIN.MSU.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone