

Japanese Stilt Grass Control Project SLELO-PRISM

August 23, 24 & 27, 2012



Figure 1: View of wooded area in Selkirk Shores State Park where Japanese Stilt Grass was found to be growing. Photo by Mike McHale.

Report drafted by Greg Chapman and Mike McHale, 8/29/12.

Introduction and Background

Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is a non-native annual grass species that has the potential to invade moist, shaded areas. It is known to occur in the eastern United States from Florida north to New York, however it has not been frequently reported to occur within the SLELO-PRISM region; most reported New York occurrences are found in the southeastern portion of the state (see Figure 2).

Observations

Two populations of Japanese Stilt Grass have been detected in Oswego County: One along Rainbow Shores Road along the border of Deer Creek Marsh Wildlife Management Area, and a second within Selkirk Shores State Park along both sides of a main park road, extending somewhat into a nearby wooded area. Due to the small size of both populations, a **rapid response** control event targeting these populations has been accomplished through hand-pulling of these plants prior to the production of flowers or seeds, which takes place in late summer and early fall¹.

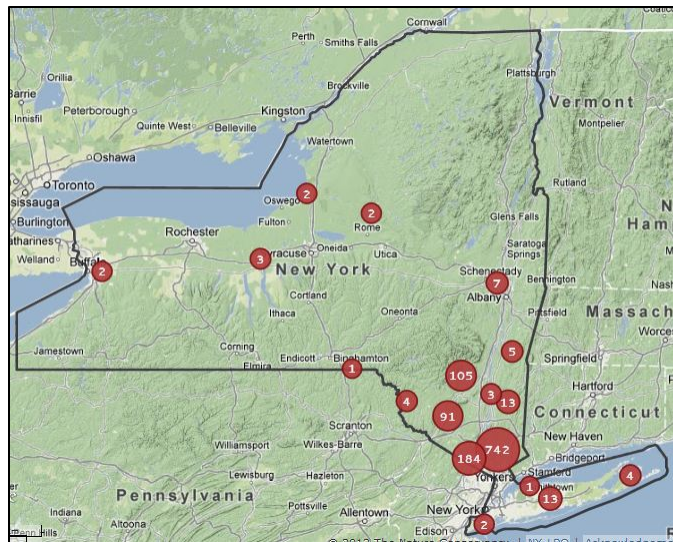


Figure 2: Generalized distribution of Japanese Stilt Grass observations in New York State, from the iMapInvasives.org New York Invasive Species Database.

¹ Information summarized from “The Nature Conservancy’s Element Stewardship Abstract for *Microstegium vimineum*” (Tu 2000), available online at <http://www.invasive.org/gist/esadocs/docmnts/micrvim.pdf>.



Figure 3: Japanese Stilt Grass growing in a wooded area at Selkirk Shores State Park. Photo by Greg Chapman.

State Park were not completely removed; however these were brought to the attention of State Park staff with the recommendation that these be mowed sometime in September to prevent their production of seed¹. All Japanese Stilt Grass detected in non-mowed areas of the park was removed; particular attention was given to detecting and removing all plants growing within a nearby wooded area, where invasion of Japanese Stiltgrass could potentially have the greatest impact¹.

One patch of Japanese Stiltgrass occurring along Rainbow Shores Road was not removed due to its location on private property. All other occurrences detected along the roadside were removed. This is the second year that manual removal of Japanese Stilt Grass has taken place at this location; Mike McHale visually estimated that less Japanese Stilt Grass was found at this location compared to last year, when he also participated in hand-pulling at this location.

Additionally, one cubic yard of **Swallow-wort** (*Cynanchum* spp.) was removed from the Rainbow Shores Road area, most coming from a medium-sized patch (approximately 50 plants) occurring near a rock barrier across a former logging access road leading into Deer Creek WMA.

All plants were placed in garbage bags to be properly disposed of off-site.

Rapid Response Methods

Manual removal (hand-pulling) of Japanese Stilt Grass was undertaken by SLELO-PRISM Field Crew Members Mike McHale and Greg Chapman on August 23, 24 and 27. On August 24, the SLELO-PRISM Field Crew was joined by Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Crew Members Emily Sheridan, Cody Mendoza and Brooks Davey to ensure adequate coverage and removal of the Selkirk Shores State Park woodland occurrence.

Results

The volume of Japanese Stilt Grass removed from both locations totaled approximately 1.5 cubic yards of plant material. No plants were observed to be flowering or beginning seed production during the hand-pulling operation.

Two patches of Japanese Stilt Grass that occurred in a regularly mowed roadside area at Selkirk Shores State Park were not completely removed; however these were brought to the attention of State Park staff with the recommendation that these be mowed sometime in September to prevent their production of seed¹. All Japanese Stilt Grass detected in non-mowed areas of the park was removed; particular attention was given to detecting and removing all plants growing within a nearby wooded area, where invasion of Japanese Stiltgrass could potentially have the greatest impact¹.



Figure 4: GLRI and SLELO field crew members removing Japanese Stilt Grass from Selkirk Shores State Park on August 24, 2012. Photo by Emily Sheridan.

Maps & Data Table

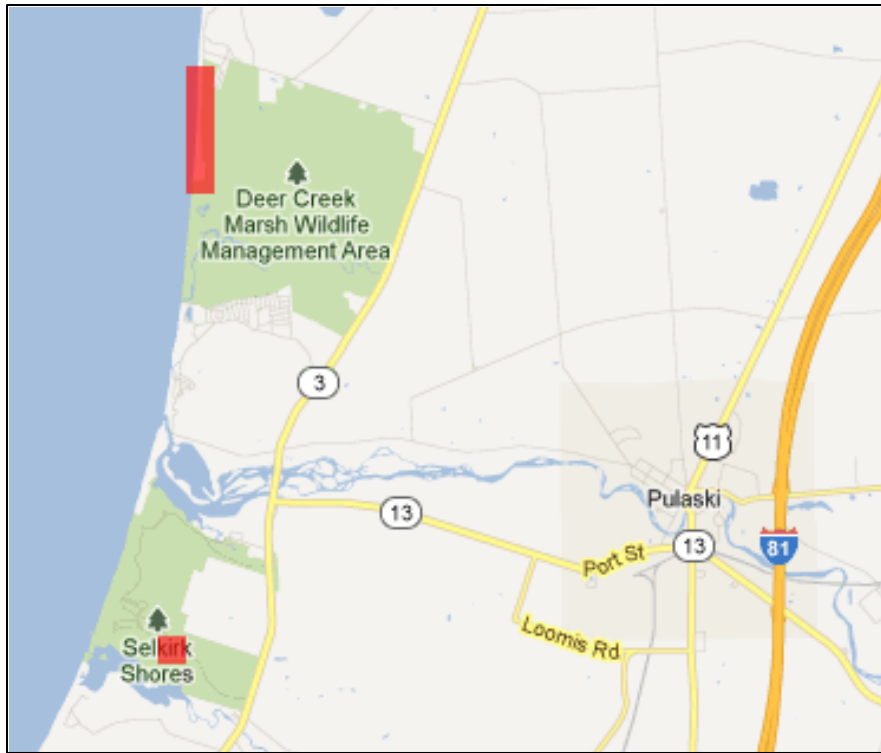


Figure 5: General locations of the two Oswego County occurrences of Japanese Stilt Grass (in red).



Figure 6: Selkirk Shores State Park occurrence locations. Note the park's entrance buildings at lower right of map.

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Figure 7: Japanese Stilt Grass (red) and Swallow-wort (green) occurrence locations along Rainbow Shores Road.

Table 1: Coordinates for Japanese Stilt Grass and Swallow-wort occurrences at Rainbow Shores Road and Selkirk Shores State Park.

Rainbow Shores Road	Japanese Stilt Grass Coordinates	
	lat.	long.
	43.60502735	-76.19772322
	43.60522876	-76.19767411
	43.60556387	-76.19771644
	43.60720689	-76.19766237
	43.60995105	-76.19759649
	43.6103657	-76.19776027
	43.61022136	-76.19786362
	43.6099373	-76.19775583
	43.60982716	-76.19776564
	43.60697664	-76.19780688
	43.60657951	-76.19784602
	43.6044438	-76.1976752
	43.60506188	-76.19783848
Swallow-wort Coordinates		
lat.	long.	
43.60778466	-76.19770537	
43.60758131	-76.19763563	
43.60729767	-76.19770688	
43.60600367	-76.19751393	
Selkirk Shores State Park	Japanese Stilt Grass Coordinates	
	lat.	long.
	43.55386027	-76.20674274
	43.55393177	-76.20630403
	43.55389732	-76.20691038