FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE:
St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
SLELO PRISM
C/O The Nature Conservancy
(315) 387-3600 x 7724
www.sleloinvasives.org

Get Involved
Help find invasive species of interest in your region.
For details, contact
megan.pistolese@tnc.org

Stay informed, join our listserv
Follow these steps to join:
1. Email cce-slelo-l-request@cornell.edu
2. Type “join” in subject space
3. Leave email body blank and send

What You Should Know About
Japanese Stilt Grass
(Microstegium vimineum)

What is Japanese Stilt Grass?

Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is an annual grass native to Asia. Japanese stilt grass seeds readily germinate allowing the plant to reproduce easily and rapidly.

When it is introduced to an area, Japanese stilt grass outcompetes more ecologically important species and has impacts on nutrient cycling and forest health. Below are two photos demonstrating how easily Japanese stilt grass can overtake an area.

You Can Stop The Spread:

Because Japanese stilt grass is an annual, its invasion and persistence in a community depends on the establishment from an on-site seed bank and/or seed dispersed from off-site parents. Therefore, it is important to gain control over Japanese stilt grass populations prior to seed production, which occurs in August.

Control & Management

**Manual Control:** Small plant populations can be hand pulled. Care must be taken to control populations before seed production in August.

**Mechanical Control:** Larger populations can be controlled using lawn mowers. Again take care to do this before seed production.

**Chemical Control:** Use of herbicides are also effective, but should be grass selective as not to harm native vegetation. It is important to always follow instructions on chemical bottles to reduce harm to the environment and to better ensure removal of the target species.

- All of these methods may need to be repeated annually to deplete the seed bank, which can be viable for three or more years.

Japanese Stilt Grass Identification:

**Leaves** are thin, lance shaped, alternately arranged, about 3 inches in length with a stripe of silver hairs down the mid vein.

**Stem** is branched and can grow three feet in height.

**Flowers** are delicate and grow on spikes in late summer-fall.