

Japanese Stilt Grass

Microstegium vimineum

Identification: Japanese stilt grass is an annual grass, growing to 2 or 3 feet tall by late summer. Leaves are 1-3" long, ranging in color from yellow to green. Japanese stilt grass can be distinguished from native grasses by a striking silver line running through the middle of each mature leaf.



Impact: Japanese stilt grass can grow in many different conditions, from sunny pastures to dark forest understories. This grass quickly out-competes native groundcover, entirely replacing biologically diverse communities within just a few years. Japanese stilt grass is one of the most prevalent exotic species in the Brodhead watershed.

Removal: Always remove in the late summer; plants will resprout if removed too early, and will produce seeds in Autumn.

- Ideally, pull whole plants (including roots) before large patches can establish. Repeat annually.
- If a large patch has formed, mow mature plants in late summer or early Autumn. This will need to be repeated for several years, until the seed bank of Japanese stiltgrass is exhausted.



Replacement:

Wildrye
Maidenhair Fern
Native Phlox
Wild Violet

Elymus spp.
Adiantum pedatum
Phlox spp.
Viola spp.