DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP'S
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

INVASIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

JULY

https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/japanese-stiltgrass

JAPANESE STILTGRASS

Microstegium vimineum

HISTORY & IDENTIFICATION

- Introduced accidentally in 1919 as packing material in shipments from China
- Is bright green grass with silver hairs down the center of its short bamboo like blade
- Has alternating leaves
- Grows up to 3 ft tall
- Has a sprawling mat-like, weak shallow root system

LIFE CYCLE & GROWTH HABIT

- Herbaceous annual
- Flower spike mid Aug to Oct.
- Yellow to red fruit
- Spreads through high production of seeds with a single plant producing 100-1000
- Seeds viable in the soil from 3-5 years

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

IDENTIFY & CONTROL

Be aware that there are a few native plants that look similar including Virginia cutgrass (Leersia virginica) and some knotweeds (Persicaria spp.) and nimbleweed (Muhlenbergia schreberi).
If you are unsure, please contact the Bucks County Penn State Extension Office.

Closeup of leaf blade
Photo: Bruce Ackley,
The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

CUTURAL

Maintain healthy, dense turf that compete and prevent weed establishment.

MECHANICAL

Hand hoeing and pulling, especially when the soil is damp and done before it drops seed in mid-August. Low mowing is also helpful. Mulching to exclude light from the soil and to keep the grass from germinating is helpful.

RESOURCES

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/profile/japanese-stiltgrass

https://extension.psu.edu/controlling-japanese-stiltgrass-in-your-garden

https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/japanese-stiltgrass

https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1237/