JAPANESE STILT GRASS

[*Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus*;* *Andropogon vimineus* Trin.*;* *Eulalia viminea* (Trin.) Kuntze]

MIVI

UGA2308020

Habit: Reclining, loosely branching annual to 1 m (3 ft).[16,8, 6,11]

Reproduction: By seed;[6,16, 8] may root at lower nodes.[10]

Leaves: Mid-vein of leaf blade offset from center; a line of silvery hairs runs down the mid-vein on upper surface; lanceolate, tapering at both ends, 5-10 mm (¼-⅜ in) wide, 3-8 cm (1⅛-3 3/16 in) long; pale green; leaf sheath collars with ciliate hairs.[16, 8,14]

Stems: Reclining and branching; nodes glabrous and slightly swollen.[6,8,14]

Flowers: Late summer/early fall; terminal spike-like, branching inflorescence up to 7 cm (2¾ in) long with paired, hairy spikelets; in one variety, one spikelet is awned; another variety both are awnless;[5] may have both cleistogamous and chasmogamous flowers;[18] chasmogamous flowers associated with populations in high light[1] and under water stress;[7] shade populations primarily cleistogamous; potentially highly selfed;[7] flowering plants tend to be larger than non-flowering plants.[7]

Fruits/Seeds: Ellipsoid grain 2.8-3.0 mm (⅛ in) long; abundant seed production may occur infrequently;[7] seed bank of at least 3 years;[1,7] seeds mature and are dispersed in late fall[16] when they appear to be dormant; cold stratification may be required for germination;[7] water and animal dispersed.[14]

HERB

JAPANESE STILT GRASS

UGA2308019

UGA2308028

Microstegium vimineum (Trin.) A. Camus

Habitat: Native to tropical Asia;[17,16,8] introduced into the U.S. in 1919;[5] shade tolerant;[19] preference for shady areas (closed canopy forests, especially riparian areas) but found in high light areas (roadsides, ditches, forest borders, and fields);[15] possible preference for bare ground, disturbed and acidic soil.[1,20, 11,15]

Comments: C_4 photosynthesis;[19,2,3] may acquire more light energy using sun flecks;[9] has a lower capacity to photosynthesize in high light;[19] forms a thick thatch of litter, which may prevent establishment of natives and itself;[7] may alter soil conditions to its benefit by increasing pH, nitrification, and nitrate;[1,4] association with non-native earthworms possibly due to increased litter decomposition or an agricultural connection.[12,13]

Similar Native Species: *Leersia virginica*; has hairy nodes, is a perennial, and flowers earlier.[14]