**Miscanthus sinensis**
(Eulalia
Chinese silvergrass
miscanthus)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME</th>
<th>FAMILY NAME COMMON</th>
<th>FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eulalia</td>
<td>Miscanthus sinensis Anderss.</td>
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<td>Chinese silvergrass</td>
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<td>miscanthus</td>
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<th>IMAGES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Incursion</td>
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<td>Inflorescence</td>
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<td>Dehiscing seeds</td>
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Planting of Miscanthus

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: None

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

*Miscanthus sinensis* is a highly variable robust perennial grass that can grow to 2-3 m (6.5-10 ft.) in height. It is usually found in large tufts. The branches are very flexible and spread or droop. The leaves are elongate and can measure 1 m (3 ft.) in length and 2.5 cm (1 in.) in width. The leaves have a silver white midrib. The tips of the leaves are sharp and recurving.

The fan-shaped terminal panicle is 15-61 cm (6-24 in.) long and can be silvery to pale pink in color. The branches of the panicle are erect or ascending. These panicles reach full maturity in the fall. The glabrous spikelets are very small, yellow-brown in color and encircled at the base with white or purple-colored hairs. The lemmas measure 2-3 mm (0.1 in.) long. Each fertile lemma bears an awn that is 8-10 mm long and is spirally twisted at its base.

*There are a wide variety of cultivars of this plant which may not fit this exact description.


SIMILAR SPECIES

None

REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

*Miscanthus sinensis* has the ability to reproduce vegetatively via rhizomes. It can also be dispersed longer distances through its mechanically or wind-dispersed seeds. Though some of the horticultural varieties do not self-seed, many of them still have this ability.

DISTRIBUTION
*Miscanthus sinensis* is native to China, Japan and Korea. In the United States it has been reported from Massachusetts to Florida and west to Louisiana and Missouri, as well as from California and Colorado. In New England this plant has been reported in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

**HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND**

*Miscanthus sinensis* is a horticultural introduction that has the ability to naturalize from its original site of planting. Though the exact first date of introduction into this country is unknown, more than 50 cultivars of *M. sinensis* have been introduced since 1980.

**HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND**

Coastal Grassland  
Edge  
Open Disturbed Area  
Roadside  
Vacant Lot  
Yard or Garden

*Miscanthus sinensis* depends on disturbance to become established. It is usually found along the edges of roads and woods.

**THREATS**

The invasiveness of this plant is still being assessed, but it does have the ability to form large clumps that can displace native species.

**EARLY WARNING NOTES**

*Miscanthus sinensis* is not yet a major problem in New England, and still has not been reported from Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine. New sites should be watched for and reported.

**MANAGEMENT LINKS**

The Nature Conservancy

**DOCUMENTATION NEEDS**

Documentation required: A specific photograph or mounted snippet of the leaves and inflorescences.  
Best time for documentation: Fall.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NBII- Southern Appalachian Information Node
Reference list

www.invasive.org
Description, images, and links

Integrated Taxonomic Information System
Taxonomic information

PLANTS Database
General information and map

The Nature Conservancy
Descriptive and control information

REFERENCES


DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

Submit Selection

MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

Submit Selection