

Microstegium vimineum

Invasive to Maine

Japanese Stiltgrass
Bamboo Grass

Upland
Forests, Fields, Wetlands, and Developed Areas

Leaves



Steve, flickr.com



Look for leaves that are lance-shaped (long and pointed), alternate, and untoothed. Leaves have a silvery stripe of hairs down the middle.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 LANCE-SHAPED	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



Leslie J. Mehrhoff



Look for a weak-stemmed grass growing 30 to 40 cm tall. This plant looks similar to bamboo.

Stem



Leslie J. Mehrhoff



Look for stems that are smooth and green. Stems will grow roots from lower nodes.

Seasonal Change



Leslie J. Mehrhoff



In September look for grassy flower spikes. Leaves change from lime green to purplish in the fall.

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Similar Species

Japanese Stiltgrass is similar to native White Grass, which is found rarely in Maine. White Grass leaves do not turn purple and do not have the hairy strip that Stiltgrass leaves have.

Fun Fact

Originally from Asia, Japanese Stiltgrass arrived in North America in the 1900s when the plants were used as packing material for trade goods.