

Japanese Stiltgrass Management



Photos by Gabriel Quintero

Description:

Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is a summer annual invasive found in shady, moist habitats across the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, and New England regions. It is commonly found in upland forests, and utility roads. Japanese Stiltgrass germinates in early spring and flowers/seeds from mid-September to the end of October (Neal & Judge, 2013)

Control:

Mechanical Control Methods:

Regular short mowing will reduce seed production in Japanese Stiltgrass, and mowing once in the late summer (Late August – Mid September) can be as effective as frequent mowing (Neal & Judge, 2013). Hand weeding is also effective in smaller infestations, but these methods are ineffective until late summer, as new seeds will germinate and set before September (Smith, 2008).

Chemical Control Methods:

“Herbicide treatments should be made late in the growing season but before the plants set seed. Apply a 0.25 to 0.5 percent solution of glyphosate plus a 0.5 percent non-ionic surfactant to thoroughly wet all foliage. Land managers have found that [Japanese Stiltgrass] is sensitive to this relatively low concentration of glyphosate that often will not harm adjacent plant species.

When working in wetland sites and sites in proximity to surface waters, use an aquatic formulation of glyphosate. All treatments will require follow up in successive years until the seed bank is exhausted.

Herbicides specific to grasses are effective and selective. A grass-specific chemical called fluazifop can be applied at a rate of 12 to 24 ounces per acre plus a 0.5 percent non-ionic surfactant. To achieve excellent control over a longer period of time, add pendimethalin (pre emergent) at a rate of 2 to 4 quarts per acre to the chemical mix.” (Smith, 2008)

Sources:

Neal, J., & Judge, C. A. (2013, February 18). *Japanese Stiltgrass Identification and Management*. NC State Extension Publications. <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/japanese-stiltgrass-identification-and-management>

Smith, Cheri. 2008. *Invasive Exotic Plants of North Carolina*. N.C. Department of Transportation. Raleigh, NC.