

## Plan ahead

Although the weather outside is frightful, now is the time to start thinking about what to plant this spring. How about adding a nice evergreen into your landscape?

Evergreens retain many beautiful shades of green all year. They provide a natural shield against the elements and your neighbors. There are many to choose from that will thrive in our area.

## Leyland Cypress



The **Leyland Cypress tree** is a stately, pyramid-shaped evergreen. It has a rapid growth rate (3 feet or more per year) and dense structure, making it ideal for use in privacy screens, windbreaks and hedges. A single Leyland Cypress tree is also an impressive addition to the landscape. It has feathery, soft pointed needles arranged in flat sprays on long thin branches. Needles retain their rich color year round, starting out green in youth and turning a dark bluish-green hue as they mature. The tree's needles release a pleasant fragrance when broken.

Leland Cypress trees should be grown in full sun to light shade and tolerate most soil types. They are deer resistant and drought and salt tolerant making them easy to grow in many areas.

**Size of Tree:** 60-75 feet tall / 10-20 foot spread.



# **HIGHLY INVASIVE: REMOVE!**

## **Japanese Stiltgrass**

*Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus  
Grass family (Poaceae)

**Origin:** Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia and India



Japanese stiltgrass was introduced into the United States in Tennessee around 1919 and likely escaped as a result of its use as a packing material for porcelain.

Stiltgrass is currently established in 16 eastern states, from New York to Florida.

Stiltgrass threatens native understory vegetation in full sun to deep shade. It readily invades disturbed shaded areas, like floodplains that are prone to natural scouring, and areas subject to mowing, tilling and other soil-disturbing activities including white-tailed deer traffic. It spreads opportunistically following disturbance to form dense patches, displacing native wetland and forest vegetation as the patch expands.

**Plants:** annual grass resembling a small, delicate bamboo; mature plants grow to 2-3 ft. in height. **Leaves:** pale green, lance-shaped, asymmetrical, about 3 in. in length, with a shiny midrib.

Flowers, fruits and seeds: hidden , self-fertilizing flowers in axils and/or exposed flowers in terminal racemes of paired, hairy spikelets that open and are wind-pollinated; fruits awned and bristly; late summer to fall.

Spreads: by seed and vegetative spread by rooting at joints along the stem—a new plant can emerge from each node; a single plant can produce 100-1,000 seeds that remain viable in the soil for at least three years, ensuring its persistence; seed germinates readily following soil disturbance. Although dispersal is not fully understood, seeds can be transported by water (e.g., surface runoff, streams, and floodwaters), in soil and gravel, in nursery grown plants, and on the feet of animals including humans.

Because it is similar in appearance to several native grasses, it is important to know how to recognize and differentiate stiltgrass from look-alikes. Look for asymmetrical leaves with a shiny midrib and the stilt-like growth form. Attention to new infestations should be a priority. Because it is shallow-rooted, stiltgrass may be pulled by hand at any time. Although it is simple to pull out, its root system puts out many runners and the seed spread quickly.

It is very difficult to get completely get rid of this. You may want to consider hiring a licensed professional turf/lawn care company.

**Bottom line: Make every effort to get rid of this!**

