

# New Plant Invaders to Watch For

## Japanese Stilt-grass

*(Microstegium vimineum)*

**The Threat:** Japanese stilt-grass is an annual grass that invades fields, roadsides, forests, and floodplains. It forms dense masses of vegetation that displace and exclude native plants. It has recently become established in southern and western Massachusetts and appears to be rapidly spreading to new areas.



Leaves are alternate, 2-4 inches long, and 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide. They typically have shiny a whitish midrib and are smooth or slightly hairy.



Typical appearance of Japanese stilt-grass plants. The plants grow to 2.5 to 3 feet high.



Japanese stilt-grass infestation in a forest. Forests with high white-tailed deer populations may be particularly vulnerable to invasion because deer eat most native plants but do not eat stilt-grass.

**What to do :** Learn to recognize the distinguishing features of Japanese stilt-grass shown in the images on this page. If found, immediately report the finding to Lou Wagner, Mass Audubon Regional Scientist, at 978-927-1122 Extension 2705, or [lwagner@massaudubon.org](mailto:lwagner@massaudubon.org).

