

NEW YORK NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM

Scientific name: Microstegium vimineum USDA Plants Code: MIVI
 Common names: Japanese stiltgrass, Eulalia, Nepalese browntop
 Native distribution: India and Asia, including Bhutan, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam.
 Date assessed: 20 February 2008; 24 March 2008
 Assessors: Gerry Moore
 Reviewers: LIISMA Scientific Review Committee
 Date approved: 21 April 2008 Form version date: 22 October 2008

New York Invasiveness Rank: Very High (Relative Maximum Score >80.00)

Distribution and Invasiveness Rank (Obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form)		
Status of this species in each PRISM:	Current Distribution	PRISM Invasiveness Rank
1 Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
2 Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
3 Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
4 Finger Lakes	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
5 Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Widespread	Very High
6 Lower Hudson	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
7 Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
8 Western New York	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

Invasiveness Ranking Summary (see details under appropriate sub-section)		Total (Total Answered*) Possible	Total
1	Ecological impact	40 (40)	33
2	Biological characteristic and dispersal ability	25 (25)	20
3	Ecological amplitude and distribution	25 (25)	25
4	Difficulty of control	10 (10)	7
	Outcome score	100 (100) ^b	85 ^a
	Relative maximum score [†]		85.00
	New York Invasiveness Rank [§]	Very High (Relative Maximum Score >80.00)	

* For questions answered "unknown" do not include point value in "Total Answered Points Possible." If "Total Answered Points Possible" is less than 70.00 points, then the overall invasive rank should be listed as "Unknown."

[†] Calculated as 100(a/b) to two decimal places.

[§] Very High >80.00; High 70.00–80.00; Moderate 50.00–69.99; Low 40.00–49.99; Insignificant <40.00

A. DISTRIBUTION (KNOWN/POTENTIAL): Summarized from individual PRISM forms

A1.1. Has this species been documented to persist without cultivation in NY? (reliable source; voucher not required)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes – continue to A1.2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – continue to A2.1	
A1.2. In which PRISMs is it known (see inset map)?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adirondack Park Invasive Program	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital/Mohawk	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finger Lakes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lower Hudson	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western New York	

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Documentation:

Sources of information:

Weldy and Werier, 2005, 2007; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2007; U.S.D.A., 2008.

A2.1. What is the likelihood that this species will occur and persist outside of cultivation given the climate in the following PRISMs? (obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form)

Not Assessed	Adirondack Park Invasive Program
Not Assessed	Capital/Mohawk
Not Assessed	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership
Not Assessed	Finger Lakes
High	Long Island Invasive Species Management Area
Not Assessed	Lower Hudson
Not Assessed	Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario
Not Assessed	Western New York

Documentation:

Sources of information (e.g.: distribution models, literature, expert opinions):

Weldy & Werier, 2005; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008; U.S.D.A., 2008.

If the species does not occur and is not likely to occur with any of the PRISMs, then stop here as there is no need to assess the species.

A2.2. What is the current distribution of the species in each PRISM? (obtain rank from PRISM invasiveness ranking forms)

	Distribution
Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed
Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed
Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed
Finger Lakes	Not Assessed
Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Widespread
Lower Hudson	Not Assessed
Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed
Western New York	Not Assessed

Documentation:

Sources of information:

Weldy & Werier, 2005; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008; U.S.D.A., 2008.

A2.3. Describe the potential or known suitable habitats within New York. Natural habitats include all habitats not under active human management. Managed habitats are indicated with an asterisk.

<p>Aquatic Habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish waters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater tidal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rivers/streams</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Natural lakes and ponds</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vernal pools</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reservoirs/impoundments*</p>	<p>Wetland Habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish marshes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Freshwater marshes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peatlands</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub swamps</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forested wetlands/riparian</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ditches*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beaches and/or coastal dunes</p>	<p>Upland Habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cultivated*</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grasslands/old fields</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shrublands</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forests/woodlands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alpine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roadsides*</p>
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Other potential or known suitable habitats within New York:

Documentation:

Sources of information:

Gleason & Cronquist, 1991; Swearingen & Adams, 2007; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008; U.S.D.A., 2008.

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B. INVASIVENESS RANKING

1. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

1.1. Impact on Natural Ecosystem Processes and System-Wide Parameters (e.g. fire regime, geomorphological changes (erosion, sedimentation rates), hydrologic regime, nutrient and mineral dynamics, light availability, salinity, pH)

- A. No perceivable impact on ecosystem processes based on research studies, or the absence of impact information if a species is widespread (>10 occurrences in minimally managed areas), has been well-studied (>10 reports/publications), and has been present in the northeast for >100 years. 0
- B. Influences ecosystem processes to a minor degree (e.g., has a perceivable but mild influence on soil nutrient availability) 3
- C. Significant alteration of ecosystem processes (e.g., increases sedimentation rates along streams or coastlines, reduces open water that are important to waterfowl) 7
- D. Major, possibly irreversible, alteration or disruption of ecosystem processes (e.g., the species alters geomorphology and/or hydrology, affects fire frequency, alters soil pH, or fixes substantial levels of nitrogen in the soil making soil unlikely to support certain native plants or more likely to favor non-native species) 10
- U. Unknown

Score

10

Documentation:

Identify ecosystem processes impacted (or if applicable, justify choosing answer A in the absence of impact information)

Increases soil pH.

Sources of information:

Ehrenfeld et al., 2001; Kourtev et al., 2002; Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

1.2. Impact on Natural Community Structure

- A. No perceived impact; establishes in an existing layer without influencing its structure 0
- B. Influences structure in one layer (e.g., changes the density of one layer) 3
- C. Significant impact in at least one layer (e.g., creation of a new layer or elimination of an existing layer) 7
- D. Major alteration of structure (e.g., covers canopy, eradicating most or all layers below) 10
- U. Unknown

Score

3

Documentation:

Identify type of impact or alteration:

Oftentimes will substantially increase herb layer. Since *M. vimineum* is less palatable to white-tailed deer than are native plants, deer browse pressure may be increased on native plants which may reduce their recruitment (Eschtruth and Battles 2008).

Sources of information:

Claridge & Franklin, 2003; Cole & Weltzin 2004, 2005; Horton & Neufeld, 1998; La Fleur, 1996; Redman, 1995; Winter et al., 1982.

1.3. Impact on Natural Community Composition

- A. No perceived impact; causes no apparent change in native populations 0
- B. Influences community composition (e.g., reduces the number of individuals in one or more native species in the community) 3
- C. Significantly alters community composition (e.g., produces a significant reduction in the population size of one or more native species in the community) 7
- D. Causes major alteration in community composition (e.g., results in the extirpation of one or several native species, reducing biodiversity or change the community composition towards species exotic to the natural community) 10

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U. Unknown

Score

10

Documentation:

Identify type of impact or alteration:

 Often times will form a monoculture in the herb layer. Low palatability to white tailed deer may result in increased deer browse on native plant species, which may reduce their recruitment (Eschtruth and Battles, 2008).

Sources of information:

 Claridge & Franklin, 2003; Cole & Weltzin 2004, 2005; Horton & Neufeld, 1998; La Fleur, 1996; Redman, 1995; Winter et al., 1982.

1.4. Impact on other species or species groups (cumulative impact of this species on the animals, fungi, microbes, and other organisms in the community it invades. Examples include reduction in nesting/foraging sites; reduction in habitat connectivity; injurious components such as spines, thorns, burrs, toxins; suppresses soil/sediment microflora; interferes with native pollinators and/or pollination of a native species; hybridizes with a native species; hosts a non-native disease which impacts a native species)

- | | |
|---|----|
| A. Negligible perceived impact | 0 |
| B. Minor impact | 3 |
| C. Moderate impact | 7 |
| D. Severe impact on other species or species groups | 10 |
| U. Unknown | |

Score

10

Documentation:

Identify type of impact or alteration:

 Dominance of herb layer and alteration of soil chemistry.

Sources of information:

 Claridge & Franklin, 2003; Cole & Weltzin 2004, 2005; Ehrenfeld et al., 2001; Horton & Neufeld, 1998; La Fleur, 1996; Redman, 1995; Swearingen & Adams, 2007; Winter et al., 1982.

Total Possible	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">40</td></tr></table>	40
40		
Section One Total	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">33</td></tr></table>	33
33		

2. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISPERSAL ABILITY

2.1. Mode and rate of reproduction (provisional thresholds, more investigation needed)

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. No reproduction by seeds or vegetative propagules (i.e. plant sterile with no sexual or asexual reproduction). | 0 |
| B. Limited reproduction (fewer than 10 viable seeds per plant AND no vegetative reproduction; if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 100 seeds per plant and no vegetative reproduction) | 1 |
| C. Moderate reproduction (fewer than 100 viable seeds per plant - if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 1000 seeds per plant - OR limited successful vegetative spread documented) | 2 |
| D. Abundant reproduction with vegetative asexual spread documented as one of the plants prime reproductive means OR more than 100 viable seeds per plant (if viability is not known, then maximum seed production reported to be greater than 1000 seeds per plant.) | 4 |
| U. Unknown | |

Score

4

Documentation:

Describe key reproductive characteristics (including seeds per plant):

Individual plants can produce over 1000 seeds/ year; can remain viable for at least five years.

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Sources of information:
Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

2.2. Innate potential for long-distance dispersal (e.g. bird dispersal, sticks to animal hair, buoyant fruits, pappus for wind-dispersal)

- A. Does not occur (no long-distance dispersal mechanisms) 0
- B. Infrequent or inefficient long-distance dispersal (occurs occasionally despite lack of adaptations) 1
- C. Moderate opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal, but studies report that 95% of seeds land within 100 meters of the parent plant) 2
- D. Numerous opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal and evidence that many seeds disperse greater than 100 meters from the parent plant) 4
- U. Unknown

Score 2

Documentation:

Identify dispersal mechanisms:
Small, flat seeds could easily be dispersed by numerous animals and flowing water.
Sources of information:
Author's (Moore) knowledge of the species' seed structure; no published information available.

2.3. Potential to be spread by human activities (both directly and indirectly – possible mechanisms include: commercial sales, use as forage/revegetation, spread along highways, transport on boats, contaminated compost, land and vegetation management equipment such as mowers and excavators, etc.)

- A. Does not occur 0
- B. Low (human dispersal to new areas occurs almost exclusively by direct means and is infrequent or inefficient) 1
- C. Moderate (human dispersal to new areas occurs by direct and indirect means to a moderate extent) 2
- D. High (opportunities for human dispersal to new areas by direct and indirect means are numerous, frequent, and successful) 3
- U. Unknown

Score 3

Documentation:

Identify dispersal mechanisms:
Small, flat seeds could easily be dispersed by humans by many means.
Sources of information:
Author's (Moore) knowledge of the species' seed structure.

2.4. Characteristics that increase competitive advantage, such as shade tolerance, ability to grow on infertile soils, perennial habit, fast growth, nitrogen fixation, allelopathy, etc.

- A. Possesses no characteristics that increase competitive advantage 0
- B. Possesses one characteristic that increases competitive advantage 3
- C. Possesses two or more characteristics that increase competitive advantage 6
- U. Unknown

Score 6

Documentation:

Evidence of competitive ability:
Shade tolerant, fast growth, low palatability to white tailed deer.
Sources of information:
Gleason & Cronquist, 1991; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2007 Swearingen & Adams,

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2007; Eschtruth and Battles 2008.

2.5. Growth vigor

- A. Does not form thickets or have a climbing or smothering growth habit 0
- B. Has climbing or smothering growth habit, forms a dense layer above shorter vegetation, forms dense thickets, or forms a dense floating mat in aquatic systems where it smothers other vegetation or organisms 2
- U. Unknown

Score

2

Documentation:

Describe growth form:

Dominates herb layer; forms a thatch that persists beyond growing season.

Sources of information:

Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

2.6. Germination/Regeneration

- A. Requires open soil or water and disturbance for seed germination, or regeneration from vegetative propagules to germinate, or does not make viable seeds. 0
- B. Can germinate/regenerate in vegetated areas but in a narrow range or in special conditions 2
- C. Can germinate/regenerate in existing vegetation in a wide range of conditions 3
- U. Unknown (No studies have been completed)

Score

3

Documentation:

Describe germination requirements:

Will germinate under numerous light and soil conditions.

Sources of information:

Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

2.7. Other species in the genus invasive in New York or elsewhere

- A. No 0
- B. Yes 3
- U. Unknown

Score

0

Documentation:

Species:

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2007; N.Y.F.A., 2007; U.S.D.A., 2007.

	Total	25
Section Two Total		20

3. ECOLOGICAL AMPLITUDE AND DISTRIBUTION

3.1. Density of stands in natural areas in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (use same definition as Gleason & Cronquist which is: "The part of the United States covered extends from the Atlantic Ocean west to the western boundaries of Minnesota, Iowa, northern Missouri, and southern Illinois, south to the southern boundaries of Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois, and south to the Missouri River in Missouri. In Canada the area covered includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and parts of Quebec and Ontario lying south of the 47th parallel of latitude")

- A. No large stands (no areas greater than 1/4 acre or 1000 square meters) 0
- B. Large dense stands present in areas with numerous invasive species already present or disturbed landscapes 2

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- C. Large dense stands present in areas with few other invasive species present (i.e. ability to invade relatively pristine natural areas) 4
- U. Unknown

Score 4

Documentation:
 Identify reason for selection, or evidence of weedy history:
 Plant is known and has been observed to invade forested areas where few other non-natives are noted.
 Sources of information:
 Author's (Moore's) personal field observations; Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

3.2. Number of habitats the species may invade.

- A. Not known to invade any natural habitats given at A2.3 0
- B. Known to occur in two or more of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least one a natural habitat. 1
- C. Known to occur in three or more of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least two a natural habitat. 2
- D. Known to occur in four or more of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least three a natural habitat. 4
- E. Known to occur in more than four of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least four a natural habitat. 6
- U. Unknown

Score 6

Documentation:
 Identify type of habitats where it occurs and degree/type of impacts:
 Species grows in a wide variety of open and shady habitats, except for those with extremely dry or wet conditions, including ditches, fields, forested wetlands, open swamps, mesic woodlands and roadsides. The species will oftentimes form a monoculture in the herb layer by outcompeting native species. It alters soils chemistry, thus, making it more difficult for the native vegetation to return.
 Sources of information:
 Author's (Moore's) personal field observations; Barden, 1987, 1991; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2007; Claridge & Franklin, 2003; Cole & Weltzin 2004, 2005; Ehrenfeld et al., 2001; Fairbrothers, 1972; Horton & Neufeld, 1998; Hunt & Barden, 1987; Hunt & Zaremba, 1992; La Fleur, 1996; Redman, 1995; Swearingen & Adams, 2007; Thieret, 2003; Winter et al., 1982.

3.3. Role of disturbance in establishment

- A. Requires anthropogenic disturbances to establish. 0
- B. May occasionally establish in undisturbed areas but can readily establish in areas with natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 2
- C. Can establish independent of any known natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 4
- U. Unknown

Score 4

Documentation:
 Identify type of disturbance:
 mowing, tilling, foot traffic, and other soil disturbing activities as well as natural disturbances such as the scouring associated with flooding.
 Sources of information:
 Author's (Moore's) personal field observations; Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

3.4. Climate in native range

- A. Native range does not include climates similar to New York 0
- B. Native range possibly includes climates similar to at least part of New York. 1
- C. Native range includes climates similar to those in New York 3

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U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Describe what part of the native range is similar in climate to New York:
Temperate Asia.

Sources of information:

Bien et al, in press; Hunt & Zaremba 1992, Komarov et al., 1934; Pearman, 2000;
Roshevitz, 1937; Shouliang & Phillips, 2006; Scholz & Byfield, 2000; Thieret,
2003; Tzvelev, 1983; U.S.D.A, 2008.

3.5. Current introduced distribution in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (see question 3.1 for definition of geographic scope)

- A. Not known from the northeastern US and adjacent Canada 0
- B. Present as a non-native in one northeastern USA state and/or eastern Canadian province. 1
- C. Present as a non-native in 2 or 3 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces. 2
- D. Present as a non-native in 4–8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 1 northeastern state or eastern Canadian province. 3
- E. Present as a non-native in >8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 2 northeastern states or eastern Canadian provinces. 4
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Identify states and provinces invaded:

Range in U.S.: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Sources of information:

See known introduced range in plants.usda.gov, and update with information from states and Canadian provinces.
Thieret, 2003; U.S.D.A., 2007.

3.6. Current introduced distribution of the species in natural areas in the eight New York State PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)

- A. Present in none of the PRISMs 0
- B. Present in 1 PRISM 1
- C. Present in 2 PRISMs 2
- D. Present in 3 PRISMs 3
- E. Present in more than 3 PRISMs or on the Federal noxious weed lists 4
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Describe distribution:

Recorded from the following PRISMs: Capital District, Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership, Long Island Invasive Species Management Area, Lower Hudson.

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2007; N.Y.F.A., 2007, U.S.D.A., 2007.

Total Possible

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Section Three Total

25

4. DIFFICULTY OF CONTROL

4.1. Seed banks

- A. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for less than 1 year, or does not make viable seeds or persistent propagules. 0
- B. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for at least 1 to 10 years 2
- C. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for more than 10 years 3
- U. Unknown

Score

2

Documentation:

Identify longevity of seed bank:
At least five years.
Sources of information:
Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

4.2. Vegetative regeneration

- A. No regrowth following removal of aboveground growth 0
- B. Regrowth from ground-level meristems 1
- C. Regrowth from extensive underground system 2
- D. Any plant part is a viable propagule 3
- U. Unknown

Score

1

Documentation:

Describe vegetative response:
Being a grass, the species possesses intercalary meristems and regrowth can therefore occur from above- and below ground tissues.
Sources of information:
Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

4.3. Level of effort required

- A. Management is not required: e.g., species does not persist without repeated anthropogenic disturbance. 0
- B. Management is relatively easy and inexpensive: e.g. 10 or fewer person-hours of manual effort (pulling, cutting and/or digging) can eradicate a 1 acre infestation in 1 year (infestation averages 50% cover or 1 plant/100 ft²). 2
- C. Management requires a major short-term investment: e.g. 100 or fewer person-hours/year of manual effort, or up to 10 person-hours/year using mechanical equipment (chain saws, mowers, etc.) for 2-5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication is difficult, but possible (infestation as above). 3
- D. Management requires a major investment: e.g. more than 100 person-hours/year of manual effort, or more than 10 person hours/year using mechanical equipment, or the use of herbicide, grazing animals, fire, etc. for more than 5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication may be impossible (infestation as above). 4
- U. Unknown

Score

4

Documentation:

Identify types of control methods and time-term required:
Hand removal with repeated follow up due to seeds that remain viable for many years.
Sources of information:
Swearingen & Adams, 2007.

Total Possible

10

Section Four Total

7

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Total for 4 sections Possible	100
Total for 4 sections	85

C. STATUS OF CULTIVARS AND HYBRIDS:

At the present time (May 2008) there is no protocol or criteria for assessing the invasiveness of cultivars independent of the species to which they belong. Such a protocol is needed, and individuals with the appropriate expertise should address this issue in the future. Such a protocol will likely require data on cultivar fertility and identification in both experimental and natural settings.

Hybrids (crosses between different parent species) should be assessed individually and separately from the parent species wherever taxonomically possible, since their invasiveness may differ from that of the parent species. An exception should be made if the taxonomy of the species and hybrids are uncertain, and species and hybrids can not be clearly distinguished in the field. In such cases it is not feasible to distinguish species and hybrids, and they can only be assessed as a single unit.

Some cultivars of the species known to be available:

References for species assessment:

Barden, L. 1987. Invasion of *Microstegium vimineum* (Poaceae), an exotic, annual, shade-tolerant, C-4 grass, into a North Carolina floodplain. *Amer. Midl. Naturalist* 118 (1): 40-45.

Barden, L. 1991. Element Stewardship Abstract: *Microstegium vimineum*. The Nature Conservancy. Arlington, Virginia, United States. 6 p.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 2008. AILANTHUS database. [Accessed on 8 February 2008].

Claridge, K. & S. B. Franklin. 2003. Compensation and plasticity in an invasive plant species. *Biol. Invas.* 4: 339-347.

Cole, P. G. & J. F. Weltzin. 2004. Environmental correlates of the distribution and abundance of *Microstegium vimineum*, in east Tennessee. *S.E. Naturalist (Steuben)* 3: 545-562.

Cole, P. G. & J. F. Weltzin. 2005. Light limitation creates patchy distribution of an invasive grass in eastern deciduous forests. *Biol. Invas.* 7: 477-488.

Ehrenfeld, J. G., P. Kourtev & W. Huang. 2001. Changes in soil functions following invasions of exotic understory plants in deciduous forests. *Ecol. Appl.* 11: 1287-1300.

Eschtruth, A.K. and J.J. Battles. 2008. Acceleration of exotic plant invasion in a forested ecosystem by a generalist herbivore. *Conserv. Biol.* In Press

Horton, J. L.D. Mabe (original application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research. University of South Florida]. & H. S. Neufeld. 1998. Photosynthetic responses of *Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus, a shade-tolerant, C4 grass, to variable light environments. *Oecologia* 114: 11-19.

Hunt, D. M. & R. E. Zaremba. 1992. The northeastward spread of *Microstegium vimineum* (Poaceae) into New York and adjacent states. *Rhodora* 94: 167-170.

Kourtev, P. S., J. G. Ehrenfeld, & M. Häggblom. 2002. Exotic plant species alter the microbial community structure and function in the soil. *Ecology* 83(11): 3152-3166.

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LaFleur, A. 1996. Invasive plant information sheet: Japanese stiltgrass. The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter. Hartford, Connecticut, United States.

Redman, D. E. 1995. Distribution and habitat types for Nepal microstegium [*Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) Camus] in Maryland and the District of Columbia. *Castanea* 60(3): 270-275.

Swearingen, J. M. & S. Adams. 2007. Fact Sheet: Japanese stiltgrass [online]. Plant Conservation Alliance. <<http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/pdf/mivi1.pdf>> [Accessed 15 October 2007].

United States Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service. 2008. The PLANTS Database. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana [Accessed on 31 December 2007].

Winter, K., M. R. Schmitt & G. E. Edwards. 1982. *Microstegium vimineum*, a shade adapted C-4 grass. *Pl. Sci. Lett.* 24: 311-318.

Weldy, T. and D. Werier. 2005. New York Flora Atlas. [S.M. Landry, K.N. Campbell, and L.D. Mabe (original application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research. University of South Florida]. New York Flora Association, Albany, New York. [Accessed on 31 December 2007].

Citation: This NY ranking form may be cited as: Jordan, M.J., G. Moore and T.W. Weldy. 2008. Invasiveness ranking system for non-native plants of New York. Unpublished. The Nature Conservancy, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY; The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY. Note that the order of authorship is alphabetical; all three authors contributed substantially to the development of this protocol.

Acknowledgments: The NY form incorporates components and approaches used in several other systems, cited in the references below. Valuable contributions by members of the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area's Scientific Review Committee were incorporated in revisions of this form. Original members of the LIISMA SRC included representatives of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; The Nature Conservancy; New York Natural Heritage Program, New York Sea Grant; New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; National Park Service; Brookhaven National Laboratory; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 1; Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk/Nassau Counties; Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association; Long Island Farm Bureau; SUNY Farmingdale Ornamental Horticulture Department; Queens College Biology Department; Long Island Botanical Society; Long Island Weed Information Management System database manager; Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation; Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums; Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District.

References for ranking form:

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