

# New Invaders Watch Program

## Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **AMUR SILVERGRASS**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Miscanthus sacchariflorus*

FAMILY: *Poaceae*

ORIGIN: East Asia

US INTRODUCTION: Ornamental garden plant

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Ornamental and landscape planting
- Under consideration for biofuel use

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Medium- to large-sized warm season, perennial grass, forms dense mats of upright blades of foliage, blooms in late Summer or early Autumn, with the entire plant 6 to 8 feet tall, spreads vegetatively
- Leaves linear, less than 1 inch wide have a white midrib
- Flowering stalks are a silky plume and arched, flowers in spiklets awnless
- Threatens riparian corridors, wetlands, prairies, savannas, glades and barrens, grows full sun to partial sun

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

There are no native species of *Miscanthus* in the eastern United States. Big blue stem (*Andropogon gerardii*) is a tall native grass but has a three-pronged flower spike. Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), native, has a bronze colored inflorescence. There are many varieties of *Miscanthus sacchariflorus*.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/grasses/amursilvergrass.html>

USDA Plants Database.

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=MISA>



L. Mehrhoff

Population



DCA0016163

White mid vein of leaf



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Roots



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Leaf sheath