



Weed of the Month for October 2017

Chinese Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

Origin: China, Korea, Japan

Interesting Fact: Chinese Silver Grass is a very common landscaping grass with over 50 varieties being sold in the US nursery industry alone. Some of these varieties have variegated foliage.

Description: Chinese Silver Grass is a perennial clumping grass that can grow up to 12 ft. tall. It has long leaves with white midribs and distinct, finger-like seed spikes.

Defining characteristics:

- Long leaves with white midribs
- Finger-like seedheads up to 1 ft. long
- Clumping growth habit



(Left image) The seedhead spikes

(Center image) Drawing of a small Chinese Silver Grass clump (Photo Cred: USDA PLANTS Database, USDA NRCS PLANTS Database, Bugwood.org)

(Right image) Close-up of leaf with white midrib (Photo Cred: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)



Habitat: Found on roadsides, pasturelands, and open fields.

A large clump of
Chinese Silver Grass
along US 41.



Ecological threat: Chinese Silver Grass forms dense clumps that are difficult to remove once established. It is a very prolific seed producer and spreads readily by rhizomes. In addition, Chinese Silver Grass is quite flammable and can increase fire risks in invaded areas.

Control Methods:

- Manual: Continuous mowing can be an effective way to control populations. Try to timing mowing to occur before seedhead formation.
- Chemical: Herbicide applications can also be effective. Glyphosate can be applied in summer-early fall at a foliar concentration.* If possible, treat before seeds are produced. Also, a combination of mowing then treating resprouts can be more effective.

*Always follow herbicide label instructions.

References

Kaufman, Sylvan R. and Wallace Kaufman. Invasive Plants. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2012. Print. 518pp.

Meyer, Mary H. Fact Sheet and Management of Miscanthus sinensis. Web.
<http://cels.uri.edu/docslink/ceoc/documents/Eulalia.pdf>