



## Invasive Species of the Month for September 2022

### Small Carpetgrass (*Arthraxon hispidus*)

**Origin:** Japan and Eastern Asia

**Introduction:** First introduced accidentally around 1870

**Interesting Fact:** In Eastern Asia, Small Carpetgrass has been used as a dye and as a medicinal plant to soothe sore throats in the past.

**Description:** Small Carpetgrass is an annual grass that can grow up to 1.5 ft. tall and has leaves with hairs along the edges as well as clusters of small seed spikes.

**Defining characteristics:**

- Small, alternate leaves that clasp the stems and have hairs along the leaf margins
- Small, inconspicuous clusters of seed spikes that develop in September and October
- Forms a dense “carpet” in favorable habitats



Left Image: Small Carpetgrass leaves. Note the clasp-like leaves and hairy margins.

Center Image: A young clump of Small Carpetgrass after being pulled. Note the small root system.

Right Image: The small spikes of Small Carpetgrass seeds.



## Knox County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

**Habitat:** Found in floodplains, early successional areas, pastures, and riparian corridors.



Above Image: Small Carpetgrass forming a dense carpet in Knox County.

**Ecological threat:** Small Carpetgrass can form dense stands, especially in moist environments, and outcompete other plants. Its stems can also root at the nodes, adding to the density of its growth. Small Carpetgrass spreads via seeds, which are abundant in population and can form a seed bank.

### Control Methods:

- Manual: For small clumps, hand pulling is effective. Try to time pulling before seeds are produced, otherwise bagging will be necessary.
- Chemical: Applying a 2% solution of aquatic safe formulation of glyphosate\* to the leaves before the grass develops its seed heads. Small Carpetgrass should be visible around June in our area to begin foliar treatments.

\*Always follow herbicide label instructions.

### References

Kaufman, Sylvan R. and Wallace Kaufman. 2012. *Invasive Plants*. Stackpole Books.

Parker, Chris. 2013. *Arthraxon hispidus* Invasive Species Compendium Datasheet. CABI. Retrieved from <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/112458>