

WAVYLEAF BASKETGRASS

Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. *undulatifolius*
(Ard.) U. Scholz
OPHIU2



Fig. 1

UGA 5389748

Problem: Native to southern Europe and southeastern Asia,⁴ wavyleaf basketgrass (WLBG)(Fig. 1) was first detected in Maryland in 1996^{3,4} and has been spreading since.³ This species has the potential to become an aggressive invader in eastern forests (Fig.2). Although much is not known about this new invader, an effective seed dispersal mechanism^{3,4} as well as vegetative reproduction,⁴ seasonal advantage of staying green longer than native plants,³ and competitive ability are traits that have been observed since its initial discovery.

Habit: Shade tolerant,⁴ low-trailing perennial grass.^{3,6}

Reproduction: Efficient seeder;² stoloniferous.³

Leaves/Blades: Flat, ovate to elongate; sheath and culm (stems) noticeably pilose or hairy (Fig. 1),^{4,5,6} wavy ripple-like appearance (Fig.1).

Flowers: Mid-September through November; 3 - 7 spikelets^{4,5} have glumes (lower bracts) with awns or long bristle-like appendages (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2

UGA 5389747

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Fig. 3

UGA 5389751

Fruits/Seeds: Sticky substance secreted on awns that enable seeds to attach to anything they come in contact with.^{1,3,4}

Habitat: Forest interior and edges,^{3,4} shaded riparian areas and trails.²

Similar Species: Japanese stiltgrass [*Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus] (JSG) occurs in similar habitats, but the leaves are not wavy, culms are glabrous (smooth), and mid-veins of the leaves are offset. Deertongue grass



Fig. 4

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[*Dichanthelium clandestinum* (L.) Gould] (DTG), a native species, also has hairy stems like WLBG, but grows upright and lacks wavy leaves. Figures 4 (JSG and WLBG) and 5 (all three) provide a good visual comparison between the three taxa.



Fig. 5

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