



# Invasive Plant Alert<sup>1</sup>

## Creeping Lilyturf

*Liriope spicata* (Thunb.) Lour.

### Where does it occur?

Creeping lilyturf is native to China and Vietnam. It occurs in forests and grassy slopes up to 5900 ft. It was introduced to US as an ornamental ground cover. Nowadays, it has been found in AL, DC, FL, IL, MD and MS of the US. It is rhizomatous, creeping and aggressively spreading perennial. It normally grows in shade but also grows well in sunny areas. It grows on a wide range of soils. It can effectively spread in thin-soiled areas and wetlands.



Figure 1. Forest & Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org

### How to identify it?

This species is similar to *Liriope muscari* and somewhat similar to a variety of garden plants in the lily family including daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*). The clumps of creeping lilyturf form a dense and uniform cover on the ground spreading to the adjacent turf areas. Its dark green leaves are narrow (~0.2 in

wide), arching and glossy. Leaves are 12-18 in. long, simple, with entire margins. Plant height ranges from 0.5 inches to 1.5 feet with the common height of 6-10 inches. It produces a small terminal raceme of white to lavender pink and violet blue flowers. Flower spikes are somewhat covered by the long leaves. It has round blue-black berry fruits less than 0.5 inches in size. Berries are produced in summer and fall.



Figure 2. Forest & Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org

### How to get rid of it?

Creeping lilyturf tolerates drought, heat, humidity, pollution and many herbivores. Also, it is not affected by many insects or diseases. It does not grow well in cold so winter is the best time to control this plant. Waxy leaves make this species challenging to control with herbicides. Clipping the leaves, waiting for them to re-sprout, and spraying glyphosate or diquat has been reported as effective. Repeat treatment will

be necessary. Digging up patches of the liriopie and then putting down weed fabric or putting the weed fabric directly over it may also control the plant.



Figure 2. Forest & Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org.

### Reources

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/plant-finder/plant-details/kc/a620/liriope-spicata.aspx>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/liriope/>

<sup>1</sup> This species has been identified as a potential or emerging threat to natural areas in the mid-Atlantic region