



Carex kobomugi Ohwi, Japanese sedge, Cyperaceae

Synonyms: none



Japanese sedge. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org .

Species Description & Habitat

Species Description

Japanese sedge is a low growing sedge that spreads along the ground with thick rhizomes. The stems grow to about 30cm tall, and leaves are less than a centimeter in width, but are longer than the stems with small coarse teeth on the edges. Male and female inflorescences differ in size slightly. Seeds from the Japanese sedge are achenes. This species flowers between April and June.

Habitat

In North America, Japanese sedge grows on sand dunes and in coastal areas with nice sunlight and cool to moderate temperatures. Sand allows for the rhizomes of the Japanese sedge to spread rapidly underground without resistance.

Introduction and Impact

Japanese sedge is native to Japan, Korea, China, and Taiwan. It was first documented in the United States in 1927 near Portland, OR where it hasn't been found recently. It was much more potent when introduced to Island Beach State Park, New Jersey in 1929, where it has taken the coastal habitat and similar climate to east Asia and spread rapidly from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

Carex kobomugi was widely used for sand stabilization until the 1980s, and now can spread locally through rhizomes or over larger distances with its buoyant seeds.



States where Japanese sedge occurs. EDDMapS. 2018. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>; last accessed July 12, 2018.

Distribution in Introduced Range

While *Carex kobomugi* was introduced to the West coast, *kobomugi*'s prominence is mostly seen on the eastern seaboard from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

The Japanese sedge has not spread any further across the globe than its localized American Invasive populations.



Japanese sedge up close. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.



Japanese sedge inflorescence. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.

Prevention, control, management

Various mechanical and chemical methods have been used successfully in managing Japanese sedge. Regardless of method, it is important to avoid breaking underground parts and leaving them untreated and to conduct follow-up monitoring and treatment if needed. Mapping infestations prior to treatment is very helpful for relocating sites, especially in sandy natural areas like beaches with few permanent landmarks. Because Asiatic sand sedge is capable of forming extensive colonies, early detection and treatment of infestations is critical for effective management. A 2% glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®, Rodeo®, etc.) and water solution applied to the leaves during the growing season has provided effective control.

Regulatory status

This species is listed as a Class C noxious weed in Alabama, invasive and banned in Connecticut, and Prohibited in Massachusetts.

References and Resources

Bugwood Wiki (https://wiki.bugwood.org/Microstegium_vimineum). Updated 17 February 2015. Accessed 26 May 2018.

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