



Oplismenus undulatifolius (Ard.) P. Beauv., Wavyleaf basketgrass, Poaceae

Synonyms: *Orthopogon undulatifolius* (Ard.) Spreng., *Panicum undulatifolium* Ard., *Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius* (Ard.) U. Scholz (other synonyms at <https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?>)



Wavyleaf basketgrass infesting a forest. Kerrie L. Kyde, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org.

Species Description & Habitat

Species Description

Wavyleaf basketgrass is a low-lying, trailing perennial grass that branches and roots at nodes along creeping stems. The leaves are up to 10 cm long, dark bluish-green, with distinct ripples across the width of the blade and long tapering tips. Leaf sheaths are fuzzy. Stems are noticeably hairy with white hairs. Plants bloom in mid-July. Seeds occur in 3-5 pairs; each with a 1-2 cm awn that becomes sticky in the fall, facilitating long-distance dispersal.

Habitat

This species occupies temperate environments and has been recorded from coastal plain, piedmont, and montane regions. Typically, it occurs in full canopy hardwood forests, forest margins, and shady riparian zones. It is shade tolerant and does not tolerate sunny environments very well.

Introduction and Impact

Wavyleaf basketgrass is native to South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Southern Africa. It was first found in the United States in 1996 in Maryland's Patapsco State Park. It is unclear how WB was first introduced to the U.S.

This species can carpet the forest floor, competing with native plants, creating a monoculture, and decreasing biodiversity. It also provides very little wildlife value.



States where wavyleaf basketgrass 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 May 27, 2018.

Distribution in Introduced Range

In the United States, wavyleaf basketgrass has been reported as invasive in Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

It is not known whether this species is invasive in other countries.



Wavyleaf basketgrass seed with awns. Kerrie L. Kyde, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org.



Wavyleaf basketgrass leaves showing ripples. Kerrie L. Kyde, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org.

Control and Management

Wavyleaf basketgrass can be controlled through physical and chemical means. This species is fairly easy to hand-pull and can be more effective than herbicide treatment when the population is small enough for weeding. The species may also be treated effectively with glyphosate. Because seeds are sticky and readily attach to clothing, care must be taken to assure that clothing and equipment used to treat the species are not contaminated with seed.

Regulatory Status

This species is not regulated. However, the USDA Risk Assessment ranks it as a high risk species (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/FullTextPDF/2015/20157200787.pdf>).

References and Resources

Integrated Taxonomic Information System, ITIS (<https://www.itis.gov/>). Accessed 27 May 2018. (Naming convention follows ITIS).

Global Invasive Species Database Species profile: *Oplismenus undulatifolius* (<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1557>). Updated 2018. Accessed 27 May 2018.

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United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. 2012. Weed Risk Assessment for *Oplismenus hirtellus* (L.) P. Beauv. subsp. undulatifolius (Ard.) U. Scholz (Poaceae) – Wavyleaf basketgrass. Ver. 3. 15 pp.

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