



Overview

Wavyleaf basketgrass is a perennial grass that is native to Europe and Asia. Highly shade tolerant, it grows vigorously in closed canopy forests. It appears to have the potential to crowd out native plants, including herbs and tree seedlings. Sticky seeds give this species the potential to rapidly spread over long distances.

Wavyleaf basketgrass has only been found in a handful of locations in Maryland and Virginia, including one site in Shenandoah National Park. Prompt action may be required to prevent this invasive species from becoming much more abundant in the region and beyond.



The rippling, wavy surface of wavyleaf basketgrass leaves is perhaps its most unique feature.



The wavy surface of the leaves are evident even on seedlings.

Key Features for Identification

A low, sprawling grass with rippling, 'wavy' leaves. It forms dense patches, that often appear first at the base of tree trunks.

Seeds begin to appear in late summer in our area and are covered with a sticky, glue-like substance, enabling them to adhere to most surfaces.



Patches often appear first at the base of tree trunks.

Preventing the spread of wavyleaf basketgrass

The most effective means of preventing the spread of this invasive exotic plant is by avoiding infested areas in fall and winter, when sticky seeds are present.

Duct tape can be used to remove large numbers of seeds from clothing. However, the tape must be destroyed (e.g. burned) to prevent the possibility of seed spread.

How can it be controlled?

Small patches of wavyleaf basketgrass can be effectively controlled by hand pulling. Care must be taken to remove all of the plant material present. Larger infestations can be successfully controlled using herbicides such as glyphosate.



Mature seeds are covered with an adhesive, allowing them to stick to just about anything.

Report sightings of wavyleaf basketgrass in Shenandoah National Park to the Park exotic plant management crew at 540-999-3500 ext. 3492 or Jake_Hughes@nps.gov.