

Chinese Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

Identification:

This grass can grow up to 12 feet tall in dense upright patches with silvery mid-veins on the leaves. The flowering stalks can grow to 15 feet in height and contain many bristled seeds. The grasses preferred habitat to reach its maximum height is in well drained soils and full sun but it can tolerate a wide range of conditions and grow in roadsides, old fields, and forest edges.

Native Range and Original Introduction:

Native to Asia, this grass was brought to the U.S. in the late 1800's as a ornamental landscape plant. It may also be referred to as Eulalia, zebra grass, and Miscanthus. Some cultivars are used as a biofuel crop. This grass is extremely flammable and increases the risk of wildfires.

Management Techniques:

This grass spreads primarily through its vigorous roots and rhizomes. The viability of these seeds is unknown. Manual removal of this species is not recommended due to the ability of the abundant rhizomes to re-sprout. Chinese Silver Grass can be effectively controlled by herbicide application.

Look-a-Likes:

Native big bluestem grass (*Andropogon gerardii*) may be confused with Chinese Silver Grass due to its large size but can be distinguished by its three-prong flower spike that looks like a turkey's foot. Sugarcane plume grass (*Saccharum giganteum*) is another look-a-like.

