



Report This Invader!

WAVYLEAF BASKETGRASS

(OPLISMENUS UNDULATIFOLIUS)

Photo: Vanessa Beauchamp

WHAT IS WAVYLEAF BASKETGRASS?

Wavyleaf basketgrass is a rapidly spreading invasive plant which invades forest understories. It is capable of quickly outcompeting native plants to become the dominate understory species. Wavyleaf invasions can lead to altered habitats, a loss of biodiversity and a reduction in pollinator populations. Wavyleaf, which is relatively new to the U.S., has begun to appear in natural areas within Maryland and Northern Virginia. We are currently in a position where we can prevent this species from becoming widespread if we remain vigilant and act quickly.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?



Photo: AECOS

The leaves have a clear ripple running across their width that gives the appearance of being folded like an accordion.



Photo: Fleming, VDCR Natural Heritage

The stems are fuzzy with short hairs. Notice seeds forming at top of stems.

Did You Know: Non-native species occurrences are significantly higher in areas with outdoor recreation and tourism activities; and trails, trail heads, and popular vistas are often where these species tend to first appear. As trail maintainers, you often have the best sense of what is going on along your section of trail; and you can help tremendously by keeping a look out for Wavyleaf and other invasive species, and by reporting any suspected sightings to the local land manager.

PREVENT THE SPREAD!

Wavyleaf has sticky seeds that will attach to your boots, pants, tools and pets. Prevent spreading Wavyleaf to other natural areas and to your personal property by taking these precautions:

1. When possible, wear clothing and footwear that seeds don't stick to well. For example, seeds are less likely to stick to quick dry materials and hiking pants than to carhartts and jeans.
2. Make sure to inspect and clean your boot before and after you hit the trail, removing any mud or hitchhikers. Keeping a boot brush in your car is a great way to prevent taking seed home with you.
3. Check and clean your clothes and tools prior to leaving any site.
4. Stick to designated trails as much as possible.



Photo: Vanessa Beauchamp



Photo: Vanessa Beauchamp



Photo: NY Department of Environmental Conservation



Photo: Squash Blossom Farm

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE IT?

Get A Photo! So experts can verify the identification.

Get A Location! If you have a handheld GPS or phone device, make sure you record the exact location of the plant. If you do not have a means of collecting a GPS coordinate, record detailed information on the location including: *name of nearest road crossing, distance and compass direction from nearest road crossing, how far off the side of the trail you found it, surrounding land marks and nearest trail head. Please also note when you saw the occurrence and how much (in square footage) was at the site.*

Report Your Sighting! Please send your photos, coordinates and location descriptions to

invasive@appalachiantrail.org



Thankyou for your help!

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

