

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Chinese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)



Family name: Poa family (*Poaceae*)

Native range: Asia

General: Tall, clump-forming, perennial grass, widely planted as an ornamental. With over 50 cultivars available, plants may vary in appearance. About 6.5 to 10 feet tall.

Leaves: About 3 feet long and an inch in width. Often drooping with a silver white midrib and sharp tips.

Flowers: The silvery to pale pink flowers (panicles) are fan-shaped and appear in the late summer through fall.

Fruit: Small with a twisted, bristled tip. Ripe in mid-September to October.

Look-alikes: None

Habitat: Roadsides, forest edges, wet meadow, dry meadow, coastal areas, yard, garden.

Threats to native habitats: Chinese silver grass spreads by both seed and rhizomes. It can form large clumps that displace native plants and prevent successional growth of trees and shrubs. The impenetrable clumps prevent movement of wildlife.

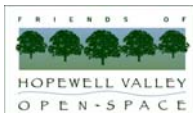


NJ Status: Chinese silver grass is uncommon but increasing statewide. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Commercial Availability: Chinese silver grass is widely planted in landscaping and gardens.



Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images:
<http://www.forestryimages.org>
<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specield=74>
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 389.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

