

# WAVYLEAF BASKETGRASS

*Opismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*

Status in Maine: not yet detected



**Description:** Perennial, trailing grass with stems ~8-11" long. **Leaves:** Alternate, deep green, ~½+" wide and 1½-4" long, long-tapering to a point, with distinctive ripples or "waves" in the leaf surface. Leaf sheaths are hairy. **Flowers/seeds:** Flower stalks develop late in the season (September-November), with numerous spikelets alternate along the stalk. Spikelets have long, fine bristles, which become sticky when seeds are mature. **Stem:** Noticeably hairy. Can root from lower stem nodes.

**Native range:** Southeast Asia and southern Europe.

**How arrived in U.S.:** Unclear, perhaps accidentally as a contaminant with other materials.

**Reproduction:** Expands quickly within a site via stolons. May be pollinated by wind, also likely self-fertile. Long-distance dispersal via sticky seeds which can adhere to fabric, skin, shoes, tires, animals, pets, etc.

**Habitat:** Moist forests, floodplain forests, forest edges. Shade tolerant; intolerant of full sun.

**Similar native species:** Grasses can be difficult to identify without training, but the wavy or ribbed leaves of wavyleaf basketgrass are distinctive. Deer-tongue panicgrass (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*) has hairy stems and wide leaves, but grows in a more upright, clumping form, and lacks ribbed leaves. Northern long-awned wood grass (*Brachyelytrum aristosum*) is found in moist forests but is upright (not creeping), and its leaves are longer, have a rough texture, and lack waves/ribs.



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**Similar non-native species:** Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) has a hairy, shiny midrib on the upper leaf surface and its leaves are not wavy like wavyleaf basketgrass.

**Control methods:** Plants are shallow rooted and easy to hand pull if the patches are small. For larger infestations, glyphosate is effective as a foliar spray. Grass-specific herbicides (e.g., clethodim) are also effective and may reduce damage to native plants. Follow-up will be required. Avoid working in wavyleaf basketgrass patches after seeds have ripened in the fall, as the sticky seeds can easily be spread by personnel working on site and then traveling elsewhere. ***Special rules apply to herbicide use in or near wetlands and waterbodies - see the section in the back of this guide titled "Use of Herbicides to Control Invasive Plants in or Near Wetlands and Waterbodies."***

