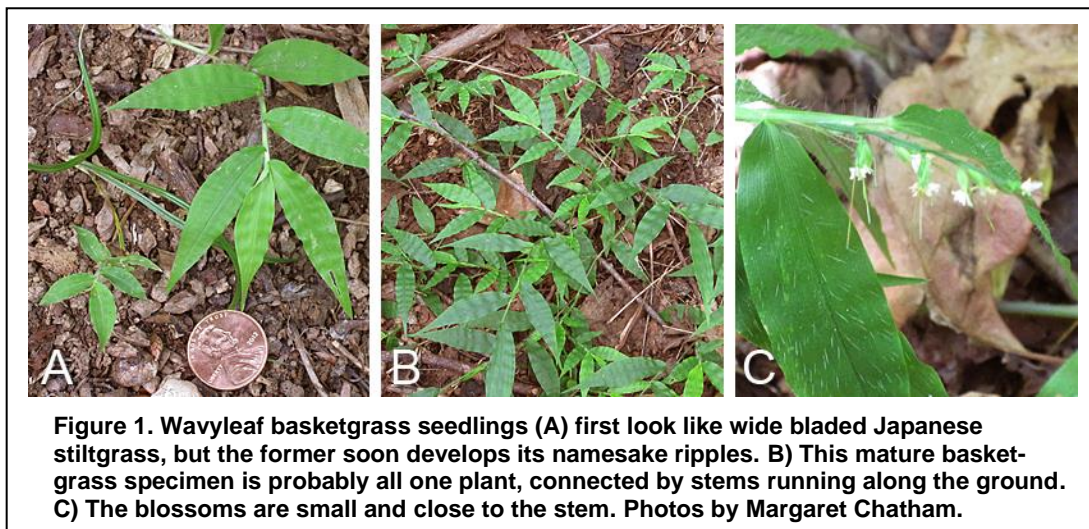


## Look Out for Wavyleaf Basketgrass!

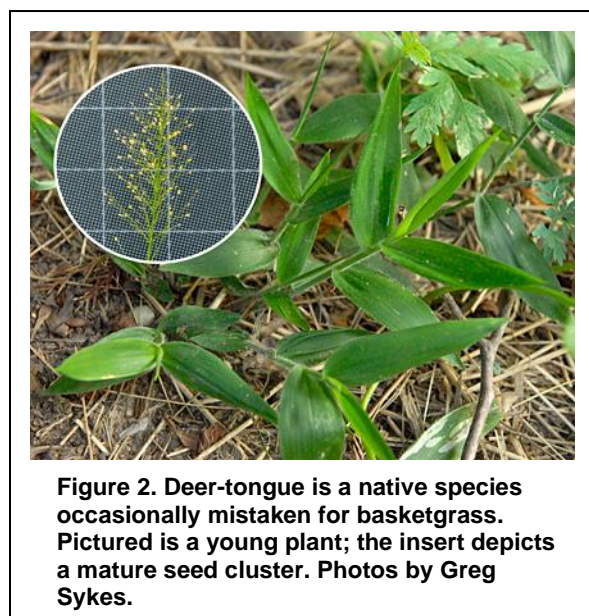
By Greg Sykes ([greg@grsykes.com](mailto:greg@grsykes.com)) and Margaret Chatham

Last month we learned about [Japanese stiltgrass](#). Wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) is another unwanted grassy pest. Currently, this emerging weed from Eurasia is limited to few localities within the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area, such as Fraser Preserve in Fairfax County. Despite total elimination efforts, it keeps popping back up which may mean unidentified locations or private properties exist where thriving populations produce the seed bank. Its leaves die back after a hard frost, sending the grass into winter dormancy. Those long, rooted stems are perennial and will grow new shoots the following year.

Since this weed's occurrence is spotty, it is monitored under the Fairfax County Park Authority's Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program. If you have basketgrass in your yard or signed up for a weed-pulling workday, take care to remove all of the stems. A native resembling basketgrass is deer-tongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*). The figures and table may help you distinguish the difference between the two plants.



Basketgrass' seeds are extremely sticky and can easily spread to other areas via animal traffic including people. When visiting parks, always stay on the trails and keep pets next to you to prevent distributing non-native invasive plant seeds, among other reasons. Please stay out of known wavyleaf basketgrass areas during its blooming and fruiting season (see Table 1). After visiting parks, check yourself and pets for seeds, ticks, and other unwanted hitchhikers. If you find wavyleaf basketgrass, please report it to your local park service or, within Fairfax County, VA, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/pubcontrmd.htm> and direct the message to Natural Resource Protection. Include as many details as possible, such as photo-verification, GPS coordinates, and address/description of location. Please get the word out about wavyleaf basketgrass!



**Table 1. This character list helps with field identification of basketgrass and deer-tongue.**

Identifying Character	Wavyleaf Basketgrass	Deer-Tongue
Leaf Form	Tiny ripples perpendicular to the central vein	Relatively smooth leaf or having few minor waves
Growth	Close to the ground until seeding, then raises to better distribute seeds	Stems stand tall
Flowering and Fruiting Time	July to frost-kill	May to September

More information and images about wavyleaf basketgrass can be found here:

- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/ophiu.htm>
- [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants\\_Wildlife/WLBG/pdfs/wlbq\\_poster011108.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/WLBG/pdfs/wlbq_poster011108.pdf)
- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/ima/ima-edrrvol.htm#watchlist>

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