

## **Let's Wave this Good-bye: An update on Wavyleaf Basketgrass**

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An article in this newsletter ([Spring 2014. V. 28 No.2](#)) exposed this plant to Virginia landowners. Since then we've learned a few things. It is not, as previously thought, an escaped plant from a living basket arrangement. While there are some similarities, it is a distinct species as determined from genetic testing. Its name has been some source of debate that has now been settled. As of January 13, 2016 it is *Oplismenus undulatifolius* (Ard.) P. Beauv.

- **Seed & dispersal methods:**

- It makes lots of seed.... Upwards of 6000 seed/m<sup>2</sup>.
  - Germination rates range from 15 to nearly 90%.
  - Humans disperse the sticky seed, more so with fleece and denim than nylon or twill.
  - Deer and dogs also disperse the sticky seed that can stay stuck for hours or days.
  - Seed viability is not known at this time.
- Basically nothing eats it and a few insects such as cockroaches, rove beetles and ground beetles, live amongst it.
  - It is very competitive in shade and partial-shade environments.

**Control options:** While more data is needed, preliminary results suggest the following recommendations from the DCR:

- Before seed-set, control small patches by hand pulling.
- Before seed-set, control larger areas with either glyphosate, a broad-spectrum herbicide that affects all plant species, or clethodim, a grass-specific herbicide.
- Do not apply control treatments to wavyleaf grass on property you do not own or are not legally authorized to manage.
- Care should be taken to avoid contact with plants that have set seed. If this is unavoidable, use duct tape to remove all seed that sticks to clothing, shoes or gloves. Keep pets away from the sticky seeds.
- Several years of control will be required to deplete the seed bank.

There are currently 42 known locations of this nasty thing in the following counties: Albemarle, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Greene, Madison, Page, Rockingham and Warren. Most of these have been found on public lands where resource professionals are intentionally looking. Recent finds by private landowners suggest the presence may be

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significantly greater. FOR THIS REASON, we are asking every landowner to look and we hope you don't find it. To learn how to identify this plant, visit Towson University's website: [heron.towson.edu/wavyleaf](http://heron.towson.edu/wavyleaf). Report findings of this species directly to Kevin Heffernan. Thanks for your help!

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