

Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

Family name: Grass (Poaceae)

Native range: Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

General description:

- Tall, clump-forming, perennial grass
- 6.5'-10' tall
- Spreads by seed and strong root system
- Widely planted as an ornamental
- Variable—over 50 cultivars available



Extensive root system

"Zebrinus" cultivar

Leaves:

- Long, thin, 3'-6' long
- Sharply pointed tips
- Leaf edges rough
- Stiff, upright, with tips sometimes curving down
- Often with a silvery white midrib
- Cultivars can vary in leaf color
- Leaves dry and persist through winter



Flowers:

- Showy, silvery to pale pink flowers (panicles)
- Fan-shaped
- Individual flowers 2.75"-3.5" wide
- Blooms late September-November



Young Chinese silvergrass flowers

Fruit:

- Small with a twisted, bristled tip
- Ripening in September-October
- Persisting through winter



Habitat:

- Forest edge, meadow, coastal areas, roadside, garden, landscaping
- Tolerates extremes in soil moisture, from dry to moist



Commercial availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)

- Large, clumping native grass to 10' or taller
- Not showy, 1-4 flowering spikes, 4"-9" long
- Seeds large, chunky, like corn kernels
- White midrib
- Swamps, meadows, wet shores



Gamagrass seeds



Gamagrass flowers



Gamagrass white midrib