

A New Threat to Delaware's Forest Habitats

Wavyleaf Basket Grass, *Oplismenus hirtellus* is a non-native, invasive species of grass that was first discovered in the United States in the late-1990s in Maryland. It is now well established in the Baltimore-Washington DC area and northern Virginia and has spread as far north as southern New York and as far south as Florida.



First discovered in White Clay Creek State Park in 2018, small populations have been found in Lums Pond State Park, Trap Pond State Park and New Castle County's Iron Hill Park. Every one of these small populations in Delaware were manually removed shortly after they were discovered. However, it appears that these were the results of repeated introductions from either, yet to-be-discovered Delaware populations or from out-of-state. The plants in Trap Pond State Park, Lums Pond State Park and Iron Hill County Park were all discovered in that park's disc golf course. In White Clay Creek it was found along a multi-use trail close to the mountain bike skills trail.

To ensure that this non-native invasive species does not become widely established in Delaware, park users who also recreate in areas where this species is established, must take care to not move seeds into Delaware. If you hike, bike or play disc golf in surrounding states where wavyleaf basketgrass and a host of other invasive plant species are established, please be sure to clean any seeds or soil from your clothing, equipment or pets before leaving that park.

Please help us slow the spread of wavyleaf basketgrass into Delaware.