

Miscanthus sinensis,

Chinese Silver Grass

Miscanthus is arguably one of the most popular invasive landscaping plants and exists in over 50 cultivars that have their invasiveness potential under review. The plant is on the restricted species list and would most commonly be seen in a grassland or meadow habitat.

Population Status: Confirmed- Herkimer, Saratoga Co.'s, Unconfirmed- Albany Co.

Description: Miscanthus is identifiable from the silvery mid-vein that runs along the length of the grass and its large feathery seed heads. It grows in clumps, and can be grown in a wide variety of soils and sun exposures. This is a tall grass, growing to three to seven feet tall when uncut. It slowly expands via the rhizomes that form the clump-like structure beneath the plant. The leaves often tilt down in a fountain-like formation.

Control: Control of this plant can be achieved by digging up entire root structure with a pick mattock. (will work much better than a shovel)

Look-alikes: Eastern gamagrass (native) does not have showy flowering spikes like Miscanthus and its seeds are chunky like corn kernels. Japanese Silver Grass, a less-common invasive Miscanthus species, has also been reported in New York, .

Flower Time and Description: The fan-shaped flowerheads bloom in September to November and the fruits persist through the winter.

