

# Invasive Species Alert - Japanese Wheatgrass

(*Elymus Tsukushiensis*)

- Native to East Asia, this plant was first discovered in The united States in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2019 at Annie Louise Wilkerson Nature Preserve.
- A large grass 1m tall, seed heads are slightly flat and droop downwards, spikelets are 15-25 mm in length and 5-10 mm wide.
- Preferred habitat is along the edge of mowed areas and streams.
- In 2023 North Carolina became the first state in the US to list this plant as an invasive species.
- Raleigh Parks is actively working to identify, map, and control this new invasive threat.
- If spotted please report to the email below!

Invasive Species Program  
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Photos by Sydney Merrell



# To help identify Japanese Wheatgrass think of the 4 S's!

**Spikelets:** The flowering part of the grass that contains the seeds.

**Singular:** Each spikelet attaches by itself to main spike stem.

**Stem-less:** Each spikelet attaches directly to the main spike stem.

**Spined:** The longest spines on each spikelet reach  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch or longer.



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