

WEED REFERENCE

Yellow nutsedge, *Cyperus esculentus*

DESCRIPTION:

Yellow nutsedge is a perennial that gets its name from the characteristic tubers (ironically – not nuts) that form on the tips of rhizomes. Tubers are chestnut colored and occur below the soil surface. Tubers often break off when plant is pulled up. To find tubers, plant must be carefully dug to prevent tubers from dislocating from rhizomes. Tubers are produced in summer only. Tubers have a sweet taste and have a high nutritional value. Plant is often planted as wildlife food called Chufa.



| | |
|--|---|
| Type of plant: | sedge |
| Life cycle: | Perennial |
| Growth habit: | spreading |
| Aggressiveness (1-10 scale; 10=most aggressive): | 8 |
| Leaf attachment: | 3 ranked |
| Leaf color: | Medium green |
| Flower description: | Flowers are indistinguishable to the naked eye |
| Seed description: | Seedhead has characteristic yellow color, the basis of the plant's name |
| Reproduces by: | Seed, rhizomes, tubers |
| U.S. states found in: | Throughout North America |
| Countries found in: | Central and South America, Europe, Africa |
| Golf course areas found in: | roughs, low maintenance areas |

MONITORING:

Begin scouting when average air temperatures reach 55 F (13 C). Target wet areas, poorly draining areas.

WEED REFERENCE

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

As with other sedges and rushes, yellow nutsedge tends to thrive in wet areas of the golf course. Therefore, poor drainage and overwatering can enhance yellow nutsedge presence. However, once established on the golf course, this weed can thrive in areas that are not wet.

Always check labels to determine turfgrass sensitivity to herbicides. Follow resistance management guidelines by rotating products as outlined in IPM Template Reference “Herbicide Resistance Management Groups.” Always consult the most recent version of all product labels before use.

| TYPE | TIMING/ THRESHOLD | PRACTICE | |
|------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Cultural | N/A | Address wet areas and poorly draining areas. Decrease mowing heights to 0.5 inch (1.3 cm) or less. Encourage healthy turf | |
| Biological | | | |
| Chemical | Post-emerge: Begin treatment in early summer, before new tubers form. Repeat applications and multi-year programs usually necessary. | Active ingredient (example) | Label signal word |
| | | bentazon (Basagran) | Caution |
| | | DSMA | Caution |
| | | halosulfuron (Manage) | Caution |
| | | imazaquin (Image) | Caution |
| | | MSMA | Caution |
| | | sulfentrazone (Dismiss) | Caution |
| | | sulfosulfuron (Certainty) | Caution |
| | | trifloxysulfuron (Monument) | Caution |