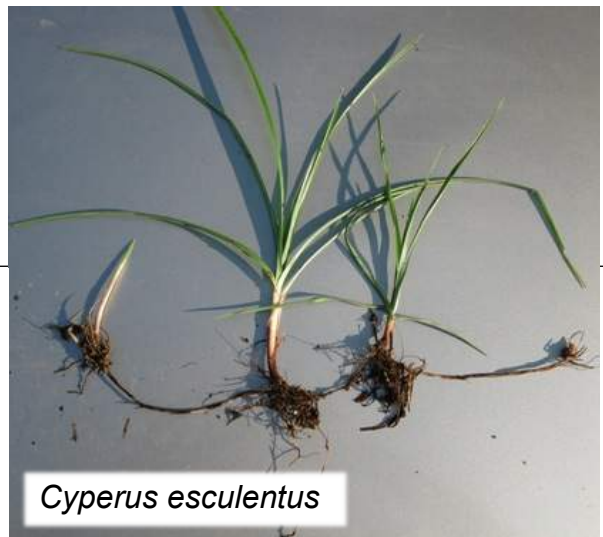


Nutsedge

Identification, Growth Habit & Control

Nutsedge is the common name for *Cyperus rotundus* (purple sedge) and *Cyperus esculentus* (yellow sedge).



Identification

Nutsedge is particularly difficult weed to identify within turf areas – It looks very similar to most grass varieties used here in Arizona. The blades are thicker and stiffer than turfgrass, are light green in color, and they grow straighter and in sets of three stems at the base, as opposed to two stems in grasses.

Growth Habits

Nutsedge spreads quickly and is notoriously difficult to eliminate once established in an area. It germinates well in warm, moist soils (like turf areas) and spreads through tubers, or “nuts” (thus “nutsedge”).

The nuts are grown on rhizomes and can be found as deep as 16” underground. New buds sprout on the nuts and grow new nutsedge plants. Through this process, untreated nutsedge can quickly spread and take over your turf area, outcompeting the grass for nutrients and sunlight.

An infestation of nutsedge can be a problem because it grows much more quickly than all varieties of grass, which can create an eye sore in an otherwise nice turf area:



Control

Pre-emergent herbicide control:

Pre-emergent herbicides have little to no effect on Nutsedge. This is due to the fact that dormant tubers that lurk beneath the soil surface are simply not affected by the active ingredients in any pre-emergent herbicide that our company has ever tried. The best option for Nutsedge control is appropriate post-emergent chemical applications.

Post-emergent herbicide control:

Once established, Nutsedge is very difficult to control. The best option for effective control is to apply a chemical called “Sedge Hammer” on all accessible parts of the plant, or throughout the entire turf area if you are dealing with an established infestation. This chemical is a selective herbicide, meaning that the active ingredients control a specific type of plant, so it is safe to apply on your turfgrass and will not affect its health. Apply “Sedge Hammer” when the Nutsedge is actively growing every three weeks until the infestation has been controlled. This is a very difficult weed to kill – occasionally more applications are necessary.

Mechanical removal:

The key to mechanically controlling Nutsedge is to remove its method of reproduction – tubers. To limit tuber production, continually remove any Nutsedge shoots and as much of the plant as possible every week. This causes the plant to put all of its available energy into growing new shoots rather than new tubers. This method will limit, but likely will not kill the Nutsedge – but it will limit the degree to which your turf area is further infested.