



## *Yellow Nutsedge*

*Cyperus esculentus* L

### Description:

Yellow nutsedge is a perennial member of the sedge family. It resembles a grass, but it is distinguished from true grasses by its triangular stems and glossy leaves (arranged in groups of three). It grows 12 to 32 inches tall. Its inflorescence has numerous straw-colored flowers originating from a single point.



The underground portion consists of roots, rhizomes, and tubers. Single tubers develop at the rhizome tips. Tubers are 1/5 to 3/4 inch in diameter and are tan to dark brown in color. Tubers can have 5-7 buds that may germinate anytime for about 4 years.

### Impacts:

Yellow nutsedge reduces crop yields by out competing crops for water, light, and nutrients. It also produces allelopathic chemicals that are toxic to other plants. Yellow nutsedge is found in temperate areas throughout the world. In the Pacific Northwest, it is found in ornamental landscaping and turf. Control is difficult once an infestation occurs, due to the high number of reproductive tubers (12 million per acre on heavily infested fields). A single plant may produce several thousand tubers in one season.

### Control Options:

Thurston County's Integrated Pest Management emphasizes cultural, biological, and manual control methods to keep pests and vegetation problems low enough to prevent damage. The goal of Thurston County's pesticide use policy is to minimize the use of pesticides by utilizing and providing information about the most effective control options that are available and practical.

#### ► Manual Techniques

Manual control of yellow nutsedge is possible only when initial infestations are discovered, and at very low populations; i.e.: a handful of plants. Careful monitoring of the infested site following manual removal must be done about every 10 days from mid-June through September. Extreme care just be taken to remove all the root systems which have attached tubers (nutlets). Removing just the plants, and some of the roots will leave the nutlets which will be the source of future infestations. Yellow nutsedge can grow up to an inch per day, when the soil temperature reaches 70 degrees. Several flushes of plants can emerge from the nutlets throughout the growing season. The following year no buds on the tubers may sprout, but the season after that the plants may reappear from dormant buds.

#### ► Chemical Techniques

Non-selective chemicals kill nearly all types of plants. [Glyphosate](#) is a non-selective active ingredient found in a number of products (like RoundUp Pro®, with 41% glyphosate) that are effective in controlling yellow nutsedge. Glyphosate works well because it is a systemic herbicide that is taken in through the stems and leaves and distributed to kill the plant with the exception of the tubers.

Glyphosate products can be used to treat individual plants or small patches, by spot foliar application. Glyphosate will not prevent future nutsedge seed or nutlet germination. Products with

an initial glyphosate concentration of 40% or greater should be used to mix to a 2% product spray solution (this excludes pre-mixed/ready-to-use products).

The infested site should be treated with glyphosate (RoundUp Pro®) before the nutsedge plants reach the 4 to 6 leaf stage, if application is made beyond this later stage new tubers will develop and not be affected by the herbicide treatments.

Products containing the active ingredient **Halsufuron** (Manage®, or Sedgehammer®), are considered “moderate in hazard” and are another choice for herbicide control.

#### **Foliar applications of Halsufuron (Manage®, or Sedgehammer®):**

The herbicide with the active ingredient glyphosate is non-selective while the herbicide Halsufuron (**Manage®, or Sedgehammer®**) is selective, and will for control yellow nutsedge and not affect surrounding grasses. The advantage of using Halsufuron (Manage®, or Sedgehammer®) is that it will allow the competitive vegetation to grow while at the same time control the targeted yellow nutsedge.

Follow all restrictions on use adjacent to agriculture or wellheads. Do not enter or allow entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval of 12 hours. Follow all label precautions and safety measures.

Always use personal protective equipment that includes coveralls, waterproof gloves, shoes plus socks, and protective eyewear.

Avoid application when turf grass or nutsedge is under stress as turf injury and poor nutsedge control may result. Do not apply over the top of desirable flowers, vegetables and shrubs. Do not apply to golf course putting greens.

#### **Rates: Spot treatment with backpack:**

1. For water dispersible granule in 1.3 oz bottle—Mix .9 gram (use the measuring scoop provided) plus 2 teaspoons, (1/3<sup>rd</sup> oz), of a nonionic surfactant in 1 gallon water.
2. For water dispersible granule pre-measured in a water soluble bag (blisterpack) plus 2 teaspoons, (1/3<sup>rd</sup> oz), of a nonionic surfactant in 1 gallon water.

Follow all label precautions and safety measures. Always use personal protective equipment that includes long sleeve shirt and long pants, shoes plus socks.

For optimum results do not mow for 2 days before or 2 days after application, also effective if no rainfall occurs within 4 hours.

**READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.** Use of brand names does not imply endorsement and is for reference only; other formulations of the same herbicides may be available under other names. Information provided is current as of the date of the fact sheet. Pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.



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