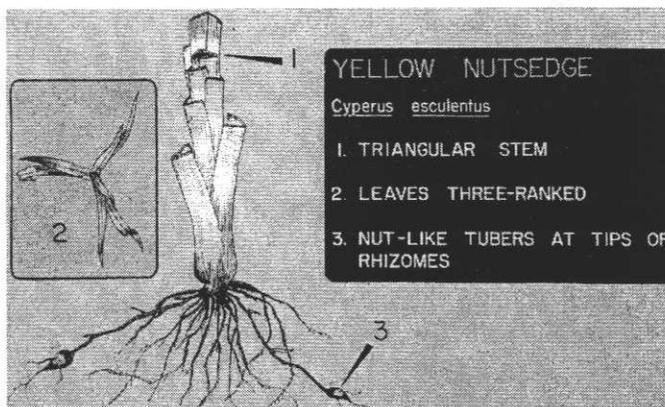


YELLOW NUTSEDGE ID

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Yellow nutsedge is an aggressive ‘grass-like’ weed of turf and landscape areas. It vigorous growth rate and bright green appearance are easily identifiable when intermixed in mulch or grass. Yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*) has a three-ranked stem, which means that the leaves come off the stem on three sides instead of two, which is more common. Calls to MSU Extension offices about nutsedge are particularly high in years with above average rainfall (read 2000 and 2004) and in areas of heavy soils or generous irrigation scheduling. Conversely, questions on nutsedge control are less frequent during drier years, when populations are not as visible. Yellow nutsedge is a very persistent weed. It can produce hundreds of thousands of seeds per year. What makes nutsedge even more competitive is its ability to reproduced by underground tubers or nutlets. These storage organs can remain dormant for years and are not effected by postemergence herbicide treatments. Therefore, new plants can develop from the nutlets, even after years of dry conditions, in areas that were previously nutsedge free.



Basagran (bentazon) and Manage (halosulfuron) are two of the most common products labeled for postemergence yellow nutsedge control in cool-season turf. These herbicides control the existing plants, but are not translocated to the dormant nutlets underground. Therefore, multiple applications are often necessary to reduce nutsedge populations.

This year has proven to be an extremely good year for nutsedge growth. Record rains in May and early-June have resulted in extremely heavy pressure in our test areas.