Know Your Species

NUTSEDGE
(Cyperus spp.)

Nutsedge (1) is a perennial which reproduces by spreading rootstocks, underground tubers, and partially by seeds. Although nutsedge bears a superficial resemblance to some grasses and is sometimes called nutgrass and coco grass, it is not a true grass, but instead is a sedge. Nutsedge grows best under moist lowland conditions and is found in fields, waste areas, gardens, and lawns.

Nutsedges may grow to a height of 6 to 36 inches and are characterized by a solid (not hollow) stem which is triangular in cross section. Stiff, coarse, yellowish-green leaves are borne in rows of three about the base of the stem (grass leaves are two ranked).

Flowers and seeds are borne atop a relatively long leafless stem. Yellowish-brown flowers are inconspicuous and produce coarse spikelets of seeds. Seeds (2) attached to radiating branchlets (spikes) appear umbrellalike.

Scaly rootstocks bear small nutlike tubers at the ends.

There are two species of nutsedge in this important group of lawn pests: yellow nutsedge, Cyperus esculentus, and purple or common nutsedge, C. rotundus. These differ in geographic distribution, size, and coloration. Yellow nutsedge is a native North American plant and is most commonly found in northern areas of the United States, although it does extend its range at times into the South. Purple nutsedge is believed to have been introduced from tropical areas into the South. It is now common from Florida to California. Nutsedges are serious pests wherever they grow.

Upright stems of purple nutsedge grow longer than the basal leaves, whereas leaves are longer than the main stem in yellow nutsedge. Spikelets of purple nutsedge are colored a brownish purple, but yellow nutsedge has yellowish-green spikelets. Underground tubers of purple nutsedge measure 1 inch long and ¼ inch in diameter, but yellow nutsedge tubers seldom exceed ¼ inch in diameter.

2,4-D can be applied repeatedly until nutsedge is eliminated. EPTC has also proven useful as a control. Controls should be applied within two weeks of shoot emergence.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

(U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland)

U. S. Borax Builds New Regional Office, Warehouse

Construction of a new regional office and warehouse is already under way in Des Plaines, Ill., announces Hugo Riemer, president, U. S. Borax, Los Angeles, Calif. The proposed structure will occupy 27,750 square feet of a two-acre site.

W. W. Wilson, regional marketing manager, says the new building will serve as regional and district headquarters for midwestern distribution of the company's products, including industrial and agricultural borates, potash, herbicides, and 20 Mule Team line of household and industrial maintenance products.

The new facility will also serve as national headquarters for the firm's railroad sales organization which supplies weedkillers and application equipment for railroad rights-of-way.

Completion of the new building late in 1965 will consolidate U. S. Borax' Chicago warehouse on Lumber St., and the Peterson Ave. offices.

In another announcement, J. F. Corkill, U. S. Borax marketing department vice president, says the company's Atlanta regional sales office has been moved from 1627 Peachtree St. N.E. to 1720 Peachtree Rd. N.W., in Atlanta, Ga.

WACA Reelects Stewart

Frank B. Stewart was re-elected president of the Western Agricultural Chemical Association at the annual convention held recently at Pebble Beach, Calif.

This association, comprised of agricultural chemical companies from 13 western states, cooperates with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and state departments of agriculture in enactment of laws and regulations for safe use of insecticides, fungicides, and weedkillers.

Stewart is executive vice president and general manager of Miller Products Co., Portland, Ore.
International Turf-Grass Conference
Scheduled for Cleveland, Feb. 7-12

More than 40 speakers, an exhibition of equipment, supplies and services occupying a 33,000-square-foot exhibition hall, will be major attractions when the 36th International Turf-Grass Conference and Show is held in Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 7-12.

Advance registrations exceed those of previous years and indicate that a record-breaking attendance will be realized at the forthcoming event.

"We really look forward to being in Cleveland," said Dr. Gene C. Nutter, executive director of the sponsoring Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. "It is fitting that GCSAA again takes its conference and show to Cleveland for it was there in 1923 that GCSAA really had its beginning with the birth of the Cleveland Greenskeepers Association. Appropriately too, the Northern Ohio Chapter is host. Every member of this chapter is also a GCSAA member making it the largest 100% chapter in North America."

John J. Spodnik, superintendent of the Westfield Country Club courses, LeRoy, Ohio, is co-chairman with Dr. Nutter. Serving with Spodnik as co-chairman of the host committee is Malcolm E. McLaren, superintendent of the Oakwood Club in Cleveland.

Officials are enthusiastic over the outstanding array of speakers chosen to address the superintendents during the 5-day educational program. They include superintendents, educators, researchers, golf course architects and other turf experts. There will be six educational assemblies.

While the conference and show is primarily for superintendents and others involved in the care and maintenance of turf, those who are interested may attend upon payment of registration fees. Information may be obtained from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Box 1385, Jacksonville Beach, Fla. 32050.

Further details on this important meeting will be given in the January issue of this magazine.

"Water-In" Tests Successful

Recent tests conducted with "Water-In," a product that is said to eliminate waterlogging due to a tendency of water to remain in soil capillaries, have been reported as successful by "Water-In," Inc., Altadena, Calif. The most recent test was conducted by Soil & Plant Lab, Inc., Orange, Calif.

In one test, roses growing in hard compacted or adobe soils tend to have waterlogged roots. With a treatment of "Water-In" the soil was aerated and the plants fed and watered at regular intervals with no ill effect.

Other tests in various areas of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department have proven likewise satisfactory. At the Sepulveda golf course, half of a green treated with "Water-In" remained open and aerated, while the untreated half remained compacted with water runoff.

Further details are available from "Water-In," Inc., by writing to P.O. Box 421, Altadena, Calif.

IMC Opens West Coast Office

A fertilizer sales office was recently opened by International Minerals & Chemical Corp. as part of its West Coast expansion program.

A company spokesman reports that successful completion of IMC's potash mine at Esterhazy, Canada, enables the company to expand its activities. The new office is located at 16 E. Third Ave., San Mateo, Calif.
Weeds Trees and Turf Wins National Award for Editorial Excellence; Aquatic Weed Series Singled Out for Citation

In a ceremony at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, November 12, Weeds Trees and Turf received a 1964 Award of Merit for Editorial Excellence from Industrial Marketing magazine. The awards were initiated 25 years ago as a means of recognizing superior editorial quality in America’s business press.

Basis of the award to WTT was the three-part series, “Applicator’s Manual of Aquatic Weed Control,” which appeared in the October, November, and December 1963 issues.

Other winners in the WTT category were Steel and Chemical Engineering magazines.

In presenting the awards, Industrial Marketing spokesmen said the panel of judges, drawn from the communications industry, looked for importance of subject matter, quality of writing, ease of communication, and effectiveness of illustrations.

When WTT began the series in fall of 1963, the full effects of Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring, a violent attack on pesticides, were just beginning to be felt. Scientists, applicators, and public health officials were particularly concerned about application of chemicals to control aquatic weeds. It was feared such applications, if not properly handled, might adversely affect potable water supplies.

But rampant weeds pose a major threat to the utility of lakes and ponds, irrigation ditches, and other waterways. Because of the lack of use-oriented information on this subject, Weeds Trees and Turf decided to present readers with a series of articles which would serve as an “on-job” manual.

WTT’s Staff Biologist, David E. Schneider, began to prepare a three-part series on the subject, using as a guideline the concept that the series should tell readers: (1) how to identify aquatic weeds; (2) what chemicals to use for control; and (3) how to select application equipment.

Because of the project’s complexity, copies of the first draft were mailed to leading researchers with federal and state agencies, universities, and chemical manufacturers, for review and comment. When these annotated copies were returned, they were reviewed and pertinent comments were incorporated into the final version.

Besides using previously unpublished photographs from the Plantation Field Laboratory, USDA, in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., WTT staffers made field trips into problem aquatic weed areas and shot additional species.

The project was six months in preparation; the series was one of three award winners in its category (Industrial Publications) in the annual competition sponsored by Industrial Marketing.

Luncheon speaker during the presentation of the awards, Philip Gisser, told the assembled editors that the function of the business press today is vital to all productivity in industry and science. Moreover, he said, it is not enough to communicate data; editors must avoid overcommunication in a time when so much technical material is being produced. Gisser, Director of Advertising and Publicity for U. S. Industrial Chemicals Co., advised the editors to be selective in presentation of their materials. WTT’s citation is a recognition that its editors are achieving this selectivity for its readers.
A. S. Patterson of Albuquerque was named president of the New Mexico Turfgrass Association at the 10th annual Turfgrass Conference on the New Mexico State University campus at University Park, October 9.

Other officers named were Bernard Corley, El Paso, vice-president, and C. E. Watson, NMSU agronomist, secretary-treasurer. Bill Leftwich of Holloman Air Force Base, Julian Serna of Albuquerque, and Harvour Jones of Los Lunas, were named to the board of directors.

In a report on new developments in grasses, John A. Long of O. M. Scott Company of Marysville, Ohio, said Texturf 10, also known as T-47, and Tifway, two varieties of bermudagrass, are the best all-around warm-season grasses for lawns and play areas. Tifgreen is recommended for putting greens but not for general planting because of the extra care it requires.

Windsor, Park, and Newport varieties of bluegrass have shown more disease resistance than Merion or common Kentucky bluegrass of the cool-season grasses.

J. R. Watson of Toro Manufacturing Company, Minneapolis, Minn., in a report on mowing, said "growing grasses for lawns and turf defied the natural processes of the plants. The extreme mowing required for the neat appearing lawn requires that everything else be ideal. Mowing removes the parts of the grass that manufacture food for the plants weakening them and if other conditions of moisture and fertility are not ideal the plants don't make it," he said.

Bunch-type grasses—ryegrass, tall fescue, and bluegrass—need higher mowing than the creeping grasses, Watson said, because the bunch grasses grow upright and more of each plant is removed in mowing.

 Zoysia and bermuda can be clipped closer because they naturally grow close to the soil and only occasionally send up shoots which are clipped by a mower. A sharp mower is important to lawn appearance. A dull mower bruises the ends of the leaves as it cuts, leaving a burned appearance. A sharp mower cuts cleanly.

Marvin Ferguson, U.S. Golf Association, Green Section, College Station, Texas, said golf courses in recent years have too often been designed without regard to drainage, foot, and car traffic, and efficiency of watering systems. He reported an excessive number of golf courses are in trouble because these factors were not considered when the courses were laid out.

The two-day conference was attended by about 50 persons.
Northeastern Weed Conference Plans Full "Industrial" Day

For the first time the annual Northeastern Weed Control Conference will devote a full day to industrial weed and brush control topics, according to John A. Meade, secretary-treasurer. The industrial sessions will be part of the three-day meeting set for January 6-8 at the Hotel Astor in New York City.

In addition to the industrial weed discussions, the yearly affair will include talks on agronomy, horticulture, and related subjects. As usual, there will be examinations of latest techniques and chemicals for weed control in turf, for highway weed control, and aquatic weed control. Farm crop subjects will round out the program.

During first-day sessions, five key addresses will be offered. Included are: (1) "From Test Tube to Label," by L. L. Coulter of Dow Chemical Co., Michigan; (2) "The Mechanics of Herbicide Application," by Art Williams of Agway, Inc.; (3) "Other Dimensions of the Weed Problem," by L. Holm of the University of Wisconsin, Madison; (4) "Progress of the CRF-1 Project on Aquatics and Woody Plants," by Dr. Stanford Fertig of Cornell University in Ithaca; and (5) "Standardization of Terminology in Weed Science," by Dr. Dayton Klingman, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md.

Also in the offering is the traditional "New Herbicides from Industry" presentation on Wednesday evening.

Highlights of the industrial sessions include a talk entitled "Eighteen Years of Chemical Control Experiences," by R. F. Billings of Cornell University and (5) Standardization of Terminology in Weed Science," by Dr. Dayton Kingman, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md.

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Plan to attend the

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Northeastern Weed Control Conference,
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When Writing to Advertisers Please Mention WEEDS TREES AND TURF
New Jersey Certified Sod Program Started;
Will Establish High-Quality Producer

The first square foot of certified sod in New Jersey was harvested recently during a program arranged to celebrate the occasion. The top-quality sod received the admiring scrutiny of state officials, agricultural leaders and sod producers at the LaBarre and Schuch Sod Farm in Springfield, New Jersey, where it was produced.

The sod certification program was initiated in the spring of 1963. It is being conducted as a cooperative program between the College of Agriculture, Rutgers—The State University, and the Bureau of Seed Certification of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. The program is under the guidance of Dr. Henry W. Indyk, extension specialist in turf management, at the College of Agriculture, Rutgers—The State University.

A number of factors have stimulated the initiation of a program of this nature. The use of sod in establishing lawns is rapidly increasing. A high degree of variation in quality of sod available to the public exists. Certified sod will protect the customer investing in sod by guaranteeing genetic identity and a high quality product, Dr. Indyk says.

The producer as well as the customer stands to benefit from the program. It will provide the high quality producer the recognition he deserves for his efforts. Competitively, also, he will be in a better position, it is reported.

The procedure in certifying sod begins with preplanting field inspections to assure their acceptability in the program. Inspecting officials must approve the seed before it is planted. Throughout the growing period of the grass, fields are periodically inspected. A final inspection is conducted at the time of marketing before issuance of certification tags if the sod meets all standards of certified sod.

Producer interest in the program is rapidly increasing. A substantial acreage is enrolled in the program at the present time and the availability of certified sod to the public should increase substantially within the next year, Dr. Indyk told Weeds Trees and Turf.

Up in the Air. Speaking of varied services, there’s an aerial operator in Gettysburg, Pa., whose direct mail pieces are indicative of what’s happening today. Too many mailers are finding out that direct mail is an excellent way to keep in touch with former customers and to attract new ones too. These folks are using a modern and aggressive out-fit, for Agrotors, Inc., who now offer an unusual service by helicopter. Agrotors’ president is Dr. Carl M. Voss, and Charles M. Mark is vice president and chief pilot. Services offered include spraying of shade trees for canker worm and gypsy moth, weed control in field crops, utility brush control, etc. Now the company has branched out south, where “Ski” Bykowski heads the Lake Wales, Fla., operation. A modern and aggressive outfit, Agrotors, Inc. is jet-age example of industry advancement.

All’s Fair. In New York last week a member of our staff rode by the World’s Fair site on his way into the city from the airport on Long Island. While the Fair has been closed for several weeks, it was refreshing to see the tip-top shape surrounding turf areas are being kept in, presumably to continue right up to smoutime! A good plug for the maintenance company which is keeping the fairgrounds ready for the crowds to come next spring.

Stose Away! In our editorial on page 6 we talk about the “rounding out” of industry firms into more than one kind of vegetation maintenance and control, and we have a good case in point, a Pacific Northwest operator who’s away and running with his thriving business of weed control, insecticide application, and tree pruning. He’s Glenn L. Stose of Portland, Oregon. Glenn’s calling card outlines the variety of his services, and adds that his company is licensed and bonded. Here’s another of that active group of forward-thinking applicators who’ve done so much to upgrade the profession in the Northwest.

To the Notebooks. Conference time is upon us. Checking our calendar of coming events, we see that hardly a week will go by from now until March without an important weed control, turf management, or tree maintenance seminar everywhere from New York City, where the Northeastern Weed Control Conference meets next month, to California, where the state weedmen are also congregating in January (details in Meeting Dates, p. 48). We again urge all our readers to take time out to attend one or more of these helpful technical sessions. The small cost of registration and transportation is nil compared to the worth of the great scientific brains one traditionally finds gathered at the conferences!