Controlling Yellow Nutsedge
Michigan State University Extension Service
Michigan Energy Conservation Program for Agriculture and Forestry
Fred Salzman, Karen Renner, Jim Kells, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
Issued May 1990
2 pages

MECP

Michigan Energy Conservation Program for Agriculture and Forestry

Extension Bulletin E-2257 May, 1990

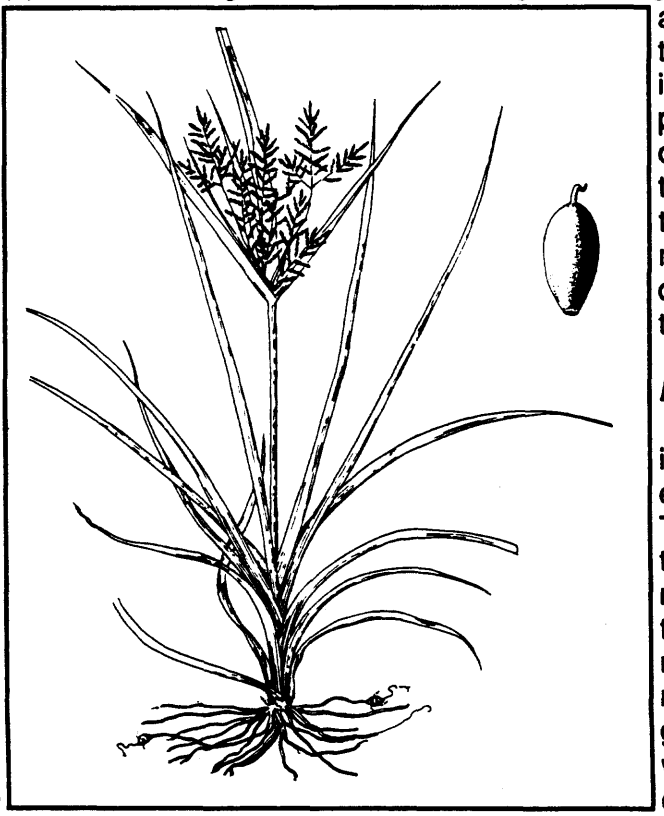
CONTROLLING YELLOW NUTSEDGE

Fred Salzman, Karen Renner, and Jim Kells
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
Michigan State University

What Is a Perennial Weed?

A perennial weed is any weed capable of surviving for three or more years. Perennial weeds are characterized by vegetative reproduction. Vegetative reproduction in these species is due to (a) rhizomes - underground creeping stems commonly found in perennial grasses; (b) stolons - prostrate stems or runners on the soil surface with roots at the nodes; (c) creeping roots; (d) tubers - underground enlarged storage stems; or (e) bulbs - underground storage organs consisting of a stem axis covered with many overlapping leaf scales.

Perennial weeds may or may not reproduce by seed. They always, however, have the potential to reproduce by vegetative means.



Description of Yellow Nutsedge

Yellow nutsedge is grass-like in appearance, but it is not a grass. Stems are solid, erect, triangular in cross section, and can reach a height of 8 to 24 inches. Leaves are yellowish-green, narrow, sprout from the base of the plant, and appear to grow from three sides of the stem when the plant is viewed from above. The seedhead has many yellow-brown, widely spaced, narrow spikelets, each ½ to 1¼ inches long, and is surrounded by 3 to 9 leafy structures. Seeds are usually sterile. The plant reproduces primarily by hard tubers, often called nutlets, located at the ends of rhizomes. These tubers overwinter. New plants emerge from each tuber. A single yellow nutsedge plant is capable of producing over 100 tubers.

Yellow nutsedge becomes a perennial within 3 weeks of emergence. It is often found in wet areas and is troublesome in low areas of cultivated fields and pastures.

Methods or Control

Methods of perennial weed control fall into three categories: (a) cultural, such as crop rotation; (b) mechanical, tillage including various implements such as plows, disks, or cultivators; and (c) chemical, using herbicides. Control of perennial weeds may require a combination of all these methods. Consider the energy and environmental implications when choosing a method of control.

Mechanical Control

Mechanical control may increase or decrease perennial weed infestations. Tillage may increase infestations by moving perennial weeds to new areas of the field or breaking dormancy of underground buds resulting in new shoot growth. Tillage during cool, wet conditions results in reduced control.

Tillage may decrease perennial weed infestations if done frequently enough to deplete underground root reserves. The field should be tilled every two or three weeks. Warm, dry soil conditions increase the effectiveness of tillage for perennial weed control by drying plant roots on the soil surface.

MECP is a cooperative effort of the:
Michigan Department of Agriculture - Michigan Soil Conservation Districts - USDA Soil Conservation Service
Michigan State University's Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Chemical Control of Yellow Nutsedge

Soybeans

Herbicide	Rate	Timing[1] (Weed ht.)	Effectiveness
Dual	2.5 pt/A	PPI or PRE	Good
Lasso or Arena	3 qt/A	PPI or PRE	Fair-Good
Lorox Plus[2]	1 lb/A	PRE	Fair
Preview[2]	½ lb/A	PPI or PRE	Fair
Scepter	2/3 pt/A	PPI or PRE	Poor-Fair
Pursuit	¼ pt/A	PPI or PRE	Fair
Basagran + COC[3,4]	1½ pt/A + 1 qt/A and repeat	POST (6-8")	Good
Classic + NIS[4,5]	3/4 oz/A+¼%	POST (4")	Good
Pursuit + 28% N + NIS[4]	¼ pt/A + 1 qt/A+¼%	POST (4")	Fair

[1] PPI applications are more effective than PRE applications.
[2] Do not use Lorox Plus or Preview if soil pH is greater than 6.8.
[3] A second application of Basagran is recommended 10 to 14 days later. A cultivation may replace the second application.
[4] NIS = nonionic surfactant; COC = crop oil concentrate
[5] Do not use Classic if soil pH is greater than 7.0.

Corn

Herbicide	Rate	Timing (Weed ht.)	Effectiveness
Eradicane	3 qt/A	PPI	Good
Eradicane Extra	3 ½qt/A	PPI	Good
Sutan Plus	3 qt/A	PPI	Good
Dual	2½ pt/A	PPI or PRE[1]	Good
Lasso, Arena, or Lasso MT	3 qt/A	PPI or PRE[1]	Fair
Basagran + COC[2,3]	1½ pt/A + 1 qt/A and repeat	POST (6-8")	Good
Atrazine + COC[2,3]	1½ lb/A + 1 qt/A and repeat	POST (6-8")	Good

[1] PPI will provide greater control than PRE applications.
[2] Sequential applications of Basagran or atrazine should be made 10 to 14 days apart.
[3] COC = crop oil concentrate

Spot treatments and between crops

Tillage may provide suppression in a dry year.

"This bulletin was prepared with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy, Grant No. DE-FG0276CS60204. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE"

This publication contains pesticide recommendations based on research and pesticide regulations. However, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly. Some pesticides mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. If you have questions about the legality and/or registration status for using pesticides, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office.

To protect yourself and others and the environment, always read the label before applying any pesticide.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, J. Ray Gillespie, Interim Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.

0-18711