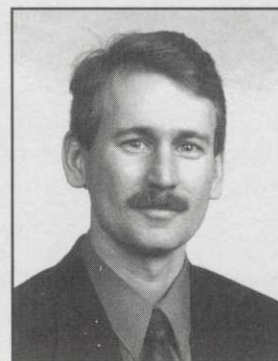


# Ask the Expert: Common questions, misconceptions and mistakes regarding nutsedge



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Q1. *It looks like grass, so why didn't pendimethalin control it?* This is a sedge, not a grass. Most grass control herbicides are not effective on nutsedge.

Q2. *The area looked so bad that I did a Roundup renovation last September, but the nutsedge is back as thick as ever.* Roundup will control nutsedge if it is applied in mid to late June. Applying Roundup or any other herbicide for nutsedge control in late summer or early fall has no impact on tuber formation, however, and as a result won't affect nutsedge populations in subsequent years.

Q3. *I bought clean topsoil, so where did the nutsedge come from?* From a weed perspective, there is no such thing as "clean" topsoil. Whenever bringing in topsoil, be prepared to contend with a new complex of weeds, few of which will be as troublesome as nutsedge. In New York, at least, it seems the one thing you get for free with any load of topsoil is nutsedge!

Q4. *I never had it before I put in sod there. It must have come in with the sod!* Sod farms, both mineral and muck, may be infested with it, but nutsedge is highly unlikely to be transported in sod. Properly cut sod has so little soil attached that it would be virtually impossible for it to contain nutsedge tubers. It is more likely that during preparation of the site for sodding, nutsedge tubers were introduced or brought to the surface.

Q5. *Early fall applications of Basagran really toasted it.* My reply to this often heard suggestion: So does frost! See my comments to Q2.

Q6. [From a turfgrass manager on the Delmarva Peninsula]: *I tried Basagran at the full labeled rate three years in a row, but couldn't control the nutsedge!* Check with your local cooperative extension service to confirm the identity of your sedge. Purple nutsedge (*Cyperus rotundus*) and kyllinga (*Kyllinga* spp.) are also in this region (and further south). These species are not controlled by Basagran, and MSMA is only partially effective.



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