



Cyperus esculentus

WA – Class B Noxious Weed

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

Yellow Nutsedge

Yellow Nutgrass, Chufa Flatsedge,
Earth-Almond

Family: Cyperaceae

Origins: Native to North America and Eurasia. Yellow Nutsedge is of subtropical origin but has spread north into temperate regions.

Range: Found throughout the world in warm and temperate zones.

Habitat: Commonly grows in croplands and along riparian areas such as margins of lakes, rivers, streams, and marshes. Prefers moist and sandy soils. Thrives in areas with warm summers and mild winters.

Impact: Yellow Nutsedge is considered one of the world's worst weeds. Well-adapted to irrigated agriculture and row crops, yellow nutsedge reduces crop yield by competing with crops for water, light, and nutrients. The plant can spoil the quality of crops and may produce chemicals that are toxic to crops. Yellow Nutsedge produces seeds but primarily spreads vegetatively by tubers, rhizomes, and corm-like basal bulbs. In one season, a single plant may produce several thousand tubers, and each tuber can have 5 to 7 buds that may germinate anytime for about four years. Once tubers are formed, this plant is very difficult to control.

Description: Yellow Nutsedge is a grass-like perennial with a waxy appearance and a fibrous root system. The stems are erect, hairless, triangular, yellow-green, and can reach a height of 3 feet. The leaves are narrow and grass-like, with a prominent mid-vein, and can grow up to 12 inches long. Leaves are arranged in three vertical rows on the stem, with most of the leaves clustered at the base of the stem. The flowers are small, yellowish-brownish, and are arranged in narrow spikelets originating from a single point on umbel-like inflorescences. Immediately below the inflorescence are 3 to 9 long leaf structures called bracts.

Yellow Nutsedge, under certain conditions, forms tubers in the summer and autumn. After the tubers are formed, they usually sprout in the spring and generally produce 1-3 sprouts in the form of determinate rhizomes. The rhizomes grow towards the soil surface and form a primary basal bulb just below the surface, which produces a vegetative plant. Plants stop growing and start to flower when critical day length or temperature is reached. Many populations do not produce viable seeds. All parts of the plant die during the winter, except for tubers.

Common Look-Alikes: Tall Flatsedge.

** Yellow Nutsedge is not known to be toxic.*



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

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| Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.) | Hand pulling, hoeing, and digging are effective for small infestations as long as the entire root system is removed. |
| Cultural | Maintaining healthy, desirable vegetation can prevent Yellow Nutsedge infestations. Tillage at four-week intervals can deplete the energy reserves of tubers as they are exposed to prolonged drying on the soil surface. Repeated cultivation can effectively reduce populations if done before the plants reach the 6 leaf stage and if performed during the growing season. Fall cultivation is not effective because the tubers are dormant. |
| Biological | Biological agents are currently not available for Yellow Nutsedge. |

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

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| Glyphosate (Roundup Pro, Glyfos, Roundup Plus) | Timing: Apply to actively growing plants midseason but before new tubers begin to form, usually by mid-June to the beginning of July. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective; it may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; repeat treatments may be necessary; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas. |
| Halosulfuron (Permit, Sandea, SedgeHammer, Manage) | Timing: Refer to the label for the appropriate application time. Remarks: Halosulfuron is selective; will not affect surrounding grasses; labeled on several crops; consult labels for stage of crop or turf growth; for best results, use a surfactant; do not apply near water. |

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.