

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Yellow nutsedge
Cyperus esculentus

Other common names: nut grass

USDA symbol: CYES
ODA rating: B

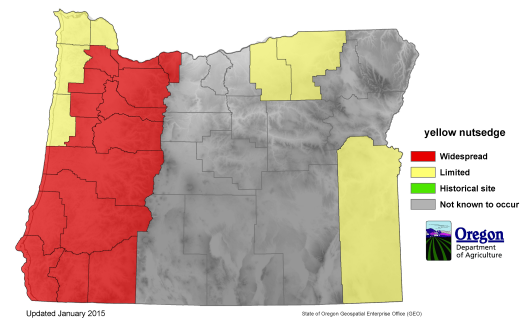


UC Statewide IPM Project
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Introduction: Yellow nutsedge is native to North America and Eurasia, but is found throughout the world. Although it is of subtropical origin, this species has spread north into temperate regions. Prior to 1950, it was found mostly in native habitats, but today it is considered one of the world's worst weeds. Yellow nutsedge is especially troublesome in the northcentral and northeastern U.S. (courtesy Ohio State Extension). It is common throughout Western Oregon, where it occurs naturally in marshes and along riverbanks, and as a weed in cultivated fields, turf and gardens.



Distribution: This species can be found in almost every state in the union. In Oregon it is most commonly found in Western Oregon Counties.

Description: Yellow nutsedge is an erect, grass-like perennial, characterized by its shiny yellowish green leaves, triangular stem, golden-brown flower head and shallow rhizomes (horizontal underground stems) that produce many nut-like tubers. Stems (1/3 to 3 feet tall) are erect, hairless, unbranched and triangular in cross-section. The leaves are light yellowish-green (4 to 12 inches long or longer, 1/8 to 1/2 inch wide) with a prominent mid-vein, a waxy surface and a gradually tapering, pointed tip. Young seedlings are often confused with grasses. This species reproduces primarily by tubers and less often by seeds. Rhizomes help to enlarge patches (courtesy Ohio State Extension).

Impacts: Yellow nutsedge can be a significant problem in vegetable crop production and other irrigated crops. It thrives in seasonally flooded sandy loam bottomlands where it can be introduced by floods. Often, loams sold in garden centers are contaminated with nutsedge turions that quickly establish and create persistent weed problems for homeowners. It can also be a problem in potted nursery stock.

Biological controls: None are available.

