

nutsedge weed control is, therefore, to correct the cause of continuously wet soils. Do not over-irrigate an area and, if necessary, provide surface and subsurface drainage.

Yellow and purple nutsedges are low-growing perennials resembling grasses. Nutsedges, in general, are yellow-green to dark-green, with triangular stems bearing three-ranked leaves-unlike the two-ranked leaves of the grass family. The root systems are fibrous with deep-rooted tubers or nutlets that are able to reproduce. Seedhead color is often used to distinguish between these two major nutsedges. Leaf tip shape is another distinguishing method. Leaf tips of purple nutsedge are generally thicker and more rounded than yellow nutsedge leaf tips which are narrowing, forming a needle-like end. Yellow and purple nutsedge have a great capacity to reproduce and spread due in part to their massive underground tuber and rhizome systems.

Historically, chemical control of most sedges was with repeat applications of 2,4-D or the organic arsenicals (MSMA, DSMA). Although effective, the treatments are slow to kill the weeds and repeat

applications are generally necessary resulting in extensive damage in certain turf species.

Selective yellow nutsedge control is now available with bentazon (Basagran T&O) with minimum turf damage. Control of most other nutsedges also will result from bentazon treatments. Bentazon is a contact material, meaning it will control only those portions of the weeds treated with it. Complete coverage of the weeds is, therefore, necessary for greatest bentazon activity. Even with good herbicide coverage, regrowth will normally occur from the roots and tubers and repeat applications will be necessary.

Purple nutsedge can be suppressed with imazaquin (Image). Selective broadleaf weeds, such as wild garlic, are also controlled with imazaquin. As with bentazon, repeat applications-possibly over several years-will be required to control all the underground reproductive parts with imazaquin. The addition of MSMA increases the activity of either bentazon or imazaquin and broadens the range of weeds controlled. However, this should be used only on bermudagrass or zoysiagrass and imazaquin should be used only on actively growing turfgrass.