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beans, and corn. It reduces crop yield and quality by competing for light, water, and nutrients. Yellow nutsedge is a serious invader because it cannot be controlled by common grass herbicides and is extremely difficult to eliminate from cropland sites once it invades. Yellow nutsedge favors moist areas, irrigated croplands, and forms dense colonies. It can also be found on disturbed sites within: pastures, floodplains, dams, ditches, streambanks, roadsides, wet fields, wet prairies, turf, landscaped areas, and around lakes and ponds. It has been sighted in elevations up to 8,200 feet. Once yellow nutsedge establishes, it is drought tolerant.

Yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*) is a warm season, perennial species that is native to Europe. Plants range from 6 to 30 inches tall. Leaves originate from the base of each stem and are grass-like, smooth, glossy, and folded lengthwise. The stems are pithy and triangular in cross-section. The flower inflorescence is umbrella-shaped, has up to 40 florets per flattened spikelet, and subtended by 3 to 9, long, leaf-like bracts. Flowers are yellowish-brown in color and appear from June to October. The root system on each plant can produce hundreds to thousands of hard, round, brown-black tubers in a season; the tubers can survive 3 to 4 years. Yellow nutsedge is particularly noticeable in July and August when it grows more quickly than native species and stands out visually.

Yellow nutsedge is very damaging to crops like onions, potatoes,

The key to effective control of yellow nutsedge is prevention. It is especially important to clean dirt and tubers from potentially contaminated farm and construction equipment. It can also be introduced with nursery activities and contaminated transplants. New infestations must be treated early, before tubers form and the plant becomes established.. Hand pulling plants, when they first appear and have less than 6 leaves, help deplete carbohydrates that supply the tubers growth. In the spring, when plants are young, herbicide treatments are an option. Details on the back of this sheet can help you create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

It is illegal to plant any variety of yellow nutsedge in Colorado, including chufa (*Cyperus esculentus* var. *sativus*) which is sometimes used to attract wildlife, such as turkeys.

Yellow nutsedge is designated as a “List B” species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eliminated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, (303) 869-9030.



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Yellow nutsedge

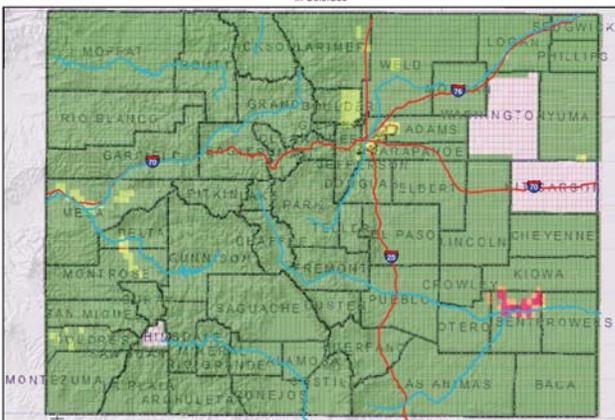
Cyperus esculentus

2013 Quarter Quad Survey

Yellow Nutsedge
Cyperus esculentus

2013 Quarterquad Survey
Distribution and Abundance
in Colorado

15,049+ Infested Acres



Distribution Legend: 0 acres 1-10 acres 11-50 acres 51-300 acres 301-999 acres >1000 acres Not Reported
Acreage estimates supplied by County Weed Coordinators and compiled by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Key ID Points

1. Stout triangular stem with grass-like leaves.
2. Brown to black, round tubers at the ends of slender rhizomes.
3. Yellowish, triangular, flattened, and oblong seeds.
4. Leave-like bracts under the inflorescence.

Integrated Weed Management Recommendations

Prevention is the best control for yellow nutsedge. Avoid soil disturbances and introduction from contaminated equipment or nursery material. Once established, it is difficult to eliminate because herbicides don't effectively kill the plant or tubers. Young plants can be hand pulled before they form tubers and pulling can deplete energy stored in the roots.



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CULTURAL

The best control method is preventing the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance, preventing tuber and seed dispersal by cleaning equipment, carefully inspecting plantings from nurseries, eliminating seed production, and maintaining healthy native communities. Yellow nutsedge can penetrate and grow through black polyethylene plastic.

BIOLOGICAL

In cultivated field, pigs and chickens can effectively grub and feed on tubers. However, there are no other biocontrol agents available for yellow nutsedge. Biocontrol takes many years of research and development. For more information on biocontrols, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Insectary in Palisade, Colorado at 970-464-7916.

MECHANICAL

Hand pull small nutsedge plants when they have less than 6 leaves, which is before tubers form. This is approximately every 2 to 3 weeks during the growing season; over time, this will deplete energy reserves in the roots. Tilling can potentially spread tubers.

CHEMICAL

Not many herbicides are effective at controlling yellow nutsedge because they lack selectivity or uptake, and most are not effective on tubers. The table below includes recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to turf, range, and pastures. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing
Aminocyclopyrachlor + Chlorsulfuron (Perspective)	4.75-8 oz. product/acre + 0.25% non-ionic surfactant	Apply at bolting to bud growth stages. (Spring to early summer) IMPORTANT: Applications greater than 5.5 oz. product/acre exceeds the threshold for selectivity. DO NOT treat in the root zone of desirable trees and shrubs. Not permitted for use in the San Luis Valley. Not for use on grazed or feed forage.
Aminopyralid + Metsulfuron (Opensight)	2.5-3 oz. product/acre + 0.25% non-ionic surfactant	Apply at bolting to bud growth stages. (Spring to early summer) Not permitted for use in the San Luis Valley. See label regarding grazed or feed forage.
Metsulfuron (Escort XP) + 2,4-D	1 oz. product/acre + 1 qt. 2,4-D/acre + 0.25 % v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply at bolting to bud growth stages. (Spring to early summer) May stunt grass growth.

Additional herbicide recommendations for this and other species can be found at:
www.colorado.gov/agconservation/CSUHerbicideRecommendations.pdf

Yellow nutsedge

Cyperus esculentus