

Yellow nutsedge

Cyperus esculentus L.

Life cycle

Rhizomatous perennial sedge.

Leaves

Yellowish green, shiny, grasslike leaves are long and narrow and distinctly ridged along the midvein, and they narrow to a long, sharp point. Leaves are mostly basal and alternate, and they point outward from the stem in three directions.

Stems

Erect, solid, up to 3-foot-tall stems are triangular in cross-section. Plants spread by wiry, scaly rhizomes and nutlike tubers produced at the rhizome tips.



Patch of yellow nutsedge.



Triangular stem of yellow nutsedge.

Yellow nutsedge *continued*

Flowers and fruit

The seedhead consists of numerous yellowish brown spikelets, which occur in a terminal, umbrellalike cluster. Under each seedhead is a whorl of several long, leaflike bracts. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, three-angled, yellowish brown fruit with a blunt end.

Reproduction

Tubers, rhizomes and, very rarely, seeds.



Yellow nutsedge seedling.



Yellow nutsedge seedhead.