

Weed of The Week

2-15-2021

Yellow Nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*)

Considered one of the worlds worst weeds, this week's weed of the week features Yellow Nutsedge. Native to North America and Eurasia, Yellow nutsedge can be found growing throughout most of the eastern half of the United States. Yellow Nutsedge prefers poorly drained rich soils. Not truly a grass but rather grass like sedge, Yellow Nutsedge features a triangle shaped stem with long thin blades. The flower is a brown to straw colored umbral type flower, flowering will begin in late May to early July and produce seed well into the fall. Yellow Nutsedge inquired its name from the nut like tubers produced in the ground. Germination will be stimulated by warming soil temperatures. Tubers or also known as nuts can produce rhizomes making this weed very hard to control by tillage or chemical control. Tubers can be viable for up to 3 years but have been known to germinate after 10 years. Research has shown populations of 10 Yellow Nutsedge plants per sq foot can reduce corn yields by 8-10% due to competition for nutrients, water, and sunlight. One of the most effective methods of controlling yellow nutsedge is to improve drainage of water from the soil. Yellow nutsedge prefers wet conditions throughout the growing season, so draining field will reduce growth and reproduction. Herbicides such as 2-4-D, Dicamba have been effective against yellow nutsedge since it is nether grass or a broadleaf weed. Other herbicides such as sulfentrazone and ortho weed killer can be effective in turf environments. Tillage is not recommended due to the growth stimulating effects it has on the tuber and rhizome. Removing the whole root system is required to effectively kill Yellow Nutsedge.

