



FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

What is this weed I found it in my yard?

Answer: It is one of the most prolific weeds in this area.

Nutsedge

A Plant that Thrives in Moisture

The Presence of Nutsedge can signal other Issues



Check Your Irrigation System

in order to avoid excessive moisture levels

- is there a leaky sprinkler head
- is there a leaky sprinkler pipe
- is the irrigation system running too frequently or too long
- how is the drainage

The excess moisture will help the plant to sprout more prolifically. Once it become established it will adapt to areas with less moisture.

Drainage can be improved

- raising beds
- directing water flow away from beds by regrading
- using gutters and downspouts to redirect
- maybe adding a french drain



Multiple Ways to Control Nutsedge

Organic to Chemical

a method for everyone



- *Check irrigation*
- *Improve drainage*
- *Maintain healthy lawn*
- *Plant taller denser plants*
- *Pull up as it emerges*
- *Spray*



*if using chemical always
read manufactureres
directions*



Best Defense against Nutsedge in the Lawn

A healthy lawn will choke out weeds.

- after mowing 2/3's of the grass height should be left
- make sure the grass is dry before mowing
- refrain from bagging the grass clippings
- water in early morning
- water deeply and less often
- test soil regularly
- aerate and top dress annually
- pull weeds as they pop up



A Sun Loving Plant

Nutsedges do not thrive as well in the shade.



Coleus

Is it taking over your flower bed and arguing with your perennials or annuals?

- *avoid low growing plants that are shorter than the nutsedge*
- *consider plants that are taller and denser*
- *perhaps some ornamental shrubs*



Veronica



Canna Lily

You may want to schedule a visit to our demonstration gardens for more ideas.
Demonstration Gardens (fbmg.org)

More than one Way to Control Nutsedge

Dig it out or Mechanical Control

Nutsedge runs underground and has tubers. To get all the tubers make sure to follow the roots, sometimes 10" or more away from the foliage. *The best time to do this is when you first see the foliage appears.*



Spray it or Chemical Control

Different varieties of nutsedge react differently to different herbicides. It is important to correctly identify which nutsedge is the target.

always check the label to verify which plants it is safe around and follow the manufacturer's instructions



Nutsedge Varieties Usually Found

Two of the Most Common but not limited to

Yellow nutsedge has yellow brown seedheads found on top of stems which are triangular.

Purple nutsedge has a seed head that is reddish to purple.

Both spread rapidly underground. The tubers however are distinctive from one another.

NUTSEGE CHARACTERISTICS		
NUTSEGE TYPE	Purple	Yellow
LEAF COLOR	Dark Green	Pale Green
LEAF TIP	Abruptly Tapers to Sharp Tip	Gradually Tapers to Sharp, Needle-Like Tip
RHIZOMES	Wiry, Scaly	Weak, Thread-Like
TUBERS	Oblong, Coarsely Hairy	Spherical, Smooth
TUBER TASTE	Bitter	Sweet
SEED HEAD COLOR	Reddish to Purplish-Brown	Yellow

Source: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/GoingNutsOverNutsedge2013.pdf>

Actually, not a grass but a sedge, the treatment is often misunderstood. This plant has hitchhiked, frequently in the ballast of ships, worldwide and has become a prolific problem almost everywhere it lands. There are multiple varieties of nutsedge and it is important to know which one you have before attempting chemical treatment.

***Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?***

***Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk***

***Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu***

***Phone:
281-341-7068***

***The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon***

References:

<https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/weeds-in-turf/yellow-nutsedge/>

<https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/weeds-in-turf/purple-nutsedge/>

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-338-W.pdf>

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/weeds-and-invasive-plants/sedges.html>

[growgreenlawncare.pdf \(tamu.edu\)](#)

<https://foragefax.tamu.edu/2021/04/16/weed-of-the-week-sedges-yellow-nutsedge-purple-nutsedge-globe-flatsedge/>

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<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/nutsedge/>