

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.

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, leaf-like 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.



Patch of yellow nutsedge.

All photos this page: Steven A. Gower



Yellow nutsedge seedling.



Yellow nutsedge seedhead.

Triangular stem of yellow nutsedge.

