

# WEED REFERENCE

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## Purple nutsedge, *Cyperus rotundus*

### DESCRIPTION:

Purple nutsedge is an aggressive perennial and has one of the most prolific growth rates of any weed in the world. Tubers are dark colored and form in chains along rhizomes.

Tubers are bitter to the taste. Tubers start to form in spring and proceed throughout the summer. Leaf tips are more blunt than yellow nutsedge. Seedhead is purple or dark red in appearance. One of the most difficult turfgrass weeds to control.



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Type of plant:	Sedge
Life cycle:	Perennial
Growth habit:	Spreading
Aggressiveness (1-10 scale; 10=most aggressive):	10
Leaf attachment:	3 ranked
Leaf color:	Dark green
Flower description:	Indistinguishable to the naked eye
Seed description:	Seedhead has characteristic purple color
Reproduces by:	Rhizomes, tubers
U.S. states found in:	Warmer climates — north to KY and west to southern CA
Countries found in:	Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, Africa
Golf course areas found in:	Tees, fairways, roughs, low maintenance areas

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### MONITORING:

Begin scouting when average air temperatures reach 55 F (13 C). Target wet and poorly draining areas.

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## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

One of the most difficult of all weeds to control, and more difficult to control than yellow nutsedge. As with other sedges and rushes, purple nutsedge tends to thrive in wet areas of the golf course. Therefore, poor drainage and overwatering can enhance purple nutsedge presence. However, once established on the golf course, this weed can thrive in areas that are not wet.

Always check labels to determine turfgrass sensitivity to herbicides. Follow resistance management guidelines by rotating products as outlined in IPM Template Reference “Herbicide Resistance Management Groups.” Always consult the most recent version of all product labels before use.

TYPE	TIMING/ THRESHOLD	PRACTICE	
Cultural	N/A	Address wet and poorly drained areas. Lower mowing heights to less than 0.5 inch (1.3 cm). Encourage healthy turf	
Biological			
Chemical	Post emerge: Apply in early summer before additional tubers form. Repeat applications and multi-year programs will be necessary.	Active ingredient (example)	Label signal word
		Halosulfuron (Manage)	Caution
		Sulfosulfuron (Certainty)	Caution
		Trifloxysulfuron (Monument)	Caution

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