

Yellow nutsedge

Cyperus esculentus L.

Life cycle

Rhizomatous perennial sedge.

Leaves

Yellowish green, shiny, grasslike leaves are long and narrow to a sharp point with distinct ridging along the midvein. Leaves are mostly basal and alternate, pointing 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.



Triangular stem of yellow nutsedge.



Patch of yellow nutsedge.

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.