

## Yellow nutsedge is already up in Lincoln April 24, 2017

Yellow nutsedge is a perennial sedge that typically emerges from underground tubers in mid- to late May in Nebraska. However, plants are emerging along bare areas adjacent to sidewalks in Lincoln (Figure 1). Ensure you're starting off the growing season with proper cultural management to increase the competitive ability of your turf and get ahead of yellow nutsedge as much as possible. Mow lawns at 3.0 to 3.5" frequently enough to prevent scalping, and prevent overly wet soils with judicious irrigation. In golf course turfs and athletic fields, mow as high as possible to improve turf density.

Control yellow nutsedge with hand weeding as soon as you are able to distinguish it from desirable turf – roll the stems of suspected plants between your fingers to feel the triangular stems of yellow nutsedge. Tubers are difficult to remove with hand weeding, and will continue to produce new shoots throughout the season – persistence is the key. If practical, consider replacing soil to remove tubers where infestations are severe.

Our current recommendation for chemical control is to begin herbicide applications around the first week of June. This ensures plants are treated before they mature and produce tubers, which typically occurs after the longest day of the year (around June 21). A subsequent application in mid-July may improve control.

Applications could be sooner this year – treat yellow nutsedge as soon as you can distinguish it from turf. Sulfentrazone (*Dismiss*), imazosulfuron (*Celero*), halosulfuron (*SedgeHammer*), and mesotrione (*Tenacity*) are labeled for postemergence control in cool-season turfgrasses and buffalograss. When treated in turf, **halosulfuron has provided the best yellow nutsedge control in UNL experiments over the last four years**, perhaps because it is absorbed foliarly. Sulfentrazone is root-absorbed, and may provide similar control in thin turf where herbicide more readily reaches soil. Additionally, sulfentrazone and mesotrione provide preemergence control of germinating tubers. Because of tuber persistence in soils, herbicide applications in successive years are often required for control.

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**Figure 1.** Yellow nutsedge has emerged in hotspots along sidewalks in Lincoln, NE.