

Yellow nutsedge is already up in Lincoln April 30, 2020

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 of yellow nutsedge is possible 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. Recent work by Luqi Li has shown that, while impractical for large infestations, hand weeding is an effective control strategy when the plants are young.

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 sequential application often improves control, depending on herbicide.

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. Testing in Nebraska has shown excellent results with Sulfentrazone (*Dismiss*), imazosulfuron (*Celero*), and halosulfuron (*SedgeHammer*). Mesotrione (*Tenacity*) will provide good control and has the added benefit of seedling safety. A new product for turfgrass managers is pyrimisulfan (*Vexis*) a granular product which has shown to provide excellent control in trials outside of Nebraska. We will be testing *Vexis*, alongside all other products, in a trial this year at UNL. Because of tuber persistence in soils, herbicide applications in successive years are often required for continued year to year control.

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