

Sedge Biology and Management in Turf¹

D. E. P. Telenko, Ramon Leon, J. Bryan Unruh, and B. J. Brecke²

Members of the sedge family have leaves that are composed of a blade, sheath, and ligule. The leaf sheath is closed and the ligule is often absent, and when present is tiny. Stem structure is often triangular.

Purple nutsedge (*Cyperus ligularis*) is a perennial with underground runners that continue from tuber to tuber, forming chains. The tubers are bitter to taste. Purple nutsedge produces a purple or reddish seedhead and has a boat-shaped leaf tip (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Purple nutsedge
Credits: D.E.P. Telenko

Yellow nutsedge (*C. esculentus*) is a perennial with underground runners that stop at tubers. The tubers are sweet to taste or have little flavor. Yellow nutsedge produces a yellow seedhead and the leaf tip is needle-shaped (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Yellow nutsedge
Credits: D.E.P. Telenko

Globe sedge (*Cyperus croceus*) is a perennial that forms a clump. Globe sedge has shiny leaves, a hard base, and seedheads shaped like globes (Figures 3 and 4).



Figure 3. Globe sedge
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2. Darcy E. P. Telenko, postdoctoral research associate; Ramon Leon, assistant professor, Agronomy Department; J. Bryan Unruh, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Barry J. Brecke, professor emeritus, and West Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 4. Globe sedge
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Perennial (Green) kyllinga (*C. brevifolius*) is a mat-forming perennial with reddish to purple rhizomes. Leaves and stems are dark green. The seedhead is simple: nearly round or oblong with three short leaves just below. Green kyllinga reproduces by seed and rhizomes and is found in low areas or where moisture is excessive.

Annual sedge (*C. compressus*) is an annual that spreads by seed. The seed forms in clusters of flat, greenish, sometimes glossy spikes up to 1 inch long (Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5. Annual sedge
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Figure 6. Annual sedge
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Herbicide options for controlling sedges in Florida turfgrass

(Always refer to the label for specific uses, application rates, and turfgrass tolerance.)

* Indicates intermediate safety use at reduced rate according to label.

Bermudagrass

- Preemergence: S-metolachlor (yellow and annual), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)
- Postemergence: 2,4-D+MCP+ dicamba+MSMA (yellow and annual), bentazone (yellow, annual, kyllinga), carfentrazone+quinclorac (yellow), flazasulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), halosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), imazaquin (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), mesotrione (yellow), sulfentrazone (purple, yellow, annual, kyllinga), sulfentrazone+imazethapyr (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+quinclorac (annual and kyllinga), sulfosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), trifloxysulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)

St. Augustinegrass

- Preemergence: S-metolachlor (yellow and annual), sulfentrazone+prodiamine* (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)
- Postemergence: bentazone (yellow, annual, kyllinga), halosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), imazaquin (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), mesotrione* (yellow), sulfentrazone* (purple, yellow, annual, kyllinga), sulfentrazone+prodiamine* (purple, yellow,

annual and kyllinga), sulfosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)

Centipedegrass

- Preemergence: S-metolachlor (yellow and annual), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)
- Postemergence: bentazone (yellow, annual, kyllinga), carfentrazone+quinclorac (yellow), flazasulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), halosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), imazaquin (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), mesotrione (yellow), sulfentrazone (purple, yellow, annual, kyllinga), sulfentrazone+imazethapyr (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+quinclorac (annual and kyllinga), sulfosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)

Bahiagrass

- Preemergence: S-metolachlor (yellow and annual), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)
- Postemergence: bentazone (yellow, annual, kyllinga), halosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone (purple, yellow, annual, kyllinga), sulfentrazone+imazethapyr* (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)

Seashore paspalum

- Preemergence: sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)
- Postemergence: flazasulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), halosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone (purple, yellow, annual, kyllinga), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+quinclorac (annual and kyllinga)

Zoysiagrass

- Preemergence: S-metolachlor (yellow and annual), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)
- Postemergence: 2,4-D+MCP+ dicamba+MSMA (yellow and annual), bentazone (yellow, annual, kyllinga), carfentrazone+quinclorac (yellow), flazasulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), halosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), imazaquin (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone (purple, yellow, annual, kyllinga), sulfentrazone+imazethapyr (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow,

annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+quinclorac (annual and kyllinga), sulfosulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), trifloxysulfuron (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)

Perennial ryegrass

- Preemergence: sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga)
- Postemergence: bentazone (yellow, annual, kyllinga), mesotrione (yellow), sulfentrazone (purple, yellow, annual, kyllinga), sulfentrazone+prodiamine (purple, yellow, annual and kyllinga), sulfentrazone+quinclorac (annual and kyllinga)

Refer to the publication Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers at http://turf.ufl.edu/pdf/2012_UF_Pest_Control_Guide.pdf for brand names associated with chemical names listed.