

Cyperus esculentus L.

Fam: Cyperaceae

Yellow nutsedge

Synonyms : *Cyperus tuberosus* Pursh ; *Cyperus repens* Ell.; *Cyperus aureus* Ten.**Ecology** : Yellow nutsedge became an invasive species in the Netherlands in the 1980s. It spreads through suckering. The new plant then produces its own system of rhizomes and tubers which leads to further spread. Severe winters do seriously diminish the population, but they never kill all tubers.**Threat** : Yellow nutsedge is a noxious weed in agricultural fields, particularly on maize, potato, lily and in tree nurseries. Damage is done on the one hand by competition for nutrients, on the other hand by contamination of the produce (bulbs, tubers, nursery plants).**Control** : As dispersal is mainly by humans, strict measures need to be implemented to assure clean culture stock (bulbs, tubers, nursery plants), machines and soil. Control is difficult and costly, but was successful in the culture of sword lilies.**Identification / similar species** : Yellow nutsedge can be easily recognized by the pale, round, succulent and terminal bulbs. *Cyperus rotundus* (purple nutsedge) has elongated tubers, that remain connected and are of a darker color. *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (sea club-rush) has dark-coloured woody tubers, often as a string of beads at the base of the stem.