

Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Purple nutsedge
Cyperus rotundus

Other common names: nutgrass, nutsedge, coco sedge, cocoglass, red nut sedge, coquito, souchet rond

USDA symbol: CYRO
ODA rating: A



Introduction: Purple nutsedge is reportedly native to India, but it has been introduced around the world. This plant is a serious pest in the southeast ranging from Virginia to central Texas. It also has become established in parts of Arizona and California and has the potential to invade other Pacific states.

Distribution in Oregon: This species is not yet known to occur in Oregon.

Description: Purple nutsedge is a perennial that grows 1 to 2 feet high. Stems are three-cornered and generally longer than the basal leaves. Leaves are grass-like, 1/8 to 1/3 inch wide and 2 to 6 inches in length. Inflorescence consists of numerous purple spikelets. Underground tubers are oblong, covered by persistent reddish scales and often formed in chains. Purple nutsedge does not typically produce seeds in the United States, it populates mainly from tubers formed on horizontal, underground, creeping stems called rhizomes, mostly in the upper foot of soil. Under favorable conditions, a single tuber could produce 99 tubers in 90 days.

Impacts: Purple nutsedge is considered one of the world's top 10 agricultural weeds. It thrives in moist conditions, most notably in the sandy soils found on river bottoms and mostly areas that are critical for food production in many third world countries. As a nutsedge, it forms nut-like turions that resist herbicide treatments and tillage. In infested countries, it is commonly found in turf, ornamental areas, cultivated fields and ditch banks. In Oregon, it is considered a potential threat to containerized horticultural products.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. If this weed is found in the state it will be managed for eradication.

