

## *Success Tip...*

### **Controlling Nutgrass in Lawns and Landscape Beds**

One of the most asked gardening questions is, “I have got patches of this light green waxy course leafed grass like weed growing in my lawn and landscape beds, and it is growing like crazy. What is it, and how do I get rid of it?” It is called nutgrass, or sometimes referred to as watergrass or nutsedge, and it is not a grass, but is a sedge. And a really tough sedge to try and get rid of. It grows faster than the regular grass, it is a limey green, and it loves moist areas or low wet spots, although it will grow elsewhere. It is a perennial, and reproduces from seeds, tubers, and nutlets, which is why it is so hard to get rid of!

Here are a few tips for controlling Nutgrass:

1.) Hand pulling younger plants (plants just sprouted from seed) may offer some control, but once the tubers and nutlets have formed in the ground, pulling practically becomes a waste of time. You get the top of the plant, but many of the tubers and nutlets remain in the soil, ready to regrow. So if you want to physically remove the nutgrass, be sure to dig out the plant, foliage, tubers and all. If drainage is a problem (compacted poorly drained soils favor nutgrass growth), try to make necessary corrections to eliminate the problem.

2.) For control in the open landscape beds, ‘Roundup’ (Kleenup) or ‘Sedgehammer’ are your best bets, as both will move down into the tubers and nutlets for complete control. But, it generally will take repeated applications before getting nutgrass totally under control (definitely use a surfactant for better results). Spray it, kill it, if it regrows, treat it again, and again, until control is had. Remember that ‘Roundup’ (Kleenup) is non-selective and will kill what it is sprayed on. Only spray ‘Sedgehammer’ on the nutgrass as well. Use caution when spraying - always read the label first.

3.) For the lawn, ‘Sedgehammer’ does an excellent job stopping nutgrass in its tracks without harming the turf (definitely use a surfactant for better results). Spot treat the lawn areas infected with nutgrass (best at 3 leaf stage, then again as needed), not the entire lawn. After the nutgrass disappears, keep watch for any regrowth, which may require a second, possibly third application of ‘Sedgehammer’. The other is called “Nutgrass ‘Nihilator’ by Monterrey Chemical. Same procedures apply, and works quite nicely getting rid of that nutgrass. (Bonide’s MSMA as well as Weed Beater Plus also list nutgrass as a weed controlled.)

4.) **VERY IMPORTANT FOR OPTIMUM CONTROL** - Now here is the secret for the best success using ‘Sedgehammer’ or ‘Roundup’ (Kleenup) or ‘Nutgrass Nihilator for nutgrass control. Use a surfactant in the spray which helps these herbicides stick to the foliage of the nutgrass, giving you even better results. It is a must for spraying chemicals to control nutgrass.

