

Botanical name: *Cyperus rotundas*

Common name: Nut grass, Nut sedge

Family: Cyperaceae

Origin: Africa, southern and central Europe, Asia

Habit: Species of perennial sedge

Height: 20 and 50cm tall or taller

Flowers: The flowers in terminal umbels¹, brown to reddish-brown/purplish-brown narrow emerging from a common point on several slender flower stalks.

Leaves: The leaves are grass like, slightly serrated, glossy dark to bright green with a prominent vein on the underside. There are up to 20 leaves per plant, mostly emerging in three rows near ground level. The main growth period is spring and it flowers in late spring to early summer

Stems: Stems are triangular, erect, smooth, and not branched.

Spread: Via deep underground rhizomes with tubers up to 25mm long attached which gives rise to shoots and rhizomes. Chain of up to 15 tubers develop. Tubers are dark brown to black, irregularly shaped and up to 2 cm in length when fully grown. Each tuber has multiple buds, most of which remain dormant and are available as a reserve in the event the active shoot is destroyed. Dormant tubers can persist in the soil for 3-4 years, but remain viable for up to 10 years in ideal conditions, thus making it hard to eradicate.

Soil: favours high fertility soils with moderate moisture, but capable of growing in nearly all soil types. .

Control: As soon as identified remove by digging it out being extremely diligent to ensure that no roots, rhizomes or bulbs are left in the soil. If there is a significant amount of nutgrass treating with a selective herbicide is the only method of removal.



1. Umbel – A flower cluster that consists of a number of short flower stalks which spread from a common point, somewhat like umbrella ribs.

(Source: Plant Protection 1 3rd Edition Ruth M. Kerruish, Phillip W Unger and various webpages)