

# Nutsedge Control Program Recommended by Penn State

Unless yellow nutsedge is controlled in cornfields, this weed could become as troublesome as quackgrass, the worst weed in cropland from New England to the Mid-West, says Nathan L. Hartwig, weed scientist at the Pennsylvania State

University. In many areas, nutsedge or nutgrass is "sneaking up" on farmers, Dr. Hartwig pointed out. About 20 percent of the corn acreage of Pennsylvania is now infested with nutsedge, he claims, and the figure is increasing

annually. Strangely, nutsedge and quackgrass are never found growing together.

Extensive experiments by Dr. Hartwig and associates have found four herbicides effective in controlling nutsedge—Sutan, Eradicane (a new eptam formulation, AAtrex, and a combination of AAtrex and Lasso. These herbicides will also control most annual weeds including witchgrass, crabgrass, fall panicum, and giant foxtail.

One year's treatment of cornfields will seldom remove nutsedge (nutgrass), the studies have found. Large numbers of small underground bulbs, much like onions, can remain dormant in the soil for a number of years. This means herbicides must be used for several years to gain complete control of yellow nutsedge.

Dr. Hartwig says Sutan and Eradicane are the most consistent herbicides of those recommended. Sutan and Eradicane should be applied before planting corn and should be worked into the soil immediately since they are volatile. Avoid applying Sutan or Eradicane to damp soil since as much as 40 per cent can be lost in 20 minutes after application.

Use one-half to two-thirds gallon per acre of Sutan, plus AAtrex 80W at a rate of one and one-quarter pounds per acre, or AAtrex 4L at the rate of 1 quart per acre. Work this into the soil twice by disking, the second time at a 45 degree angle to the first. Eradicane should be applied at a rate of one-half gallon per acre.

Another effective treatment is to use AAtrex 80W at 2.5 pounds per acre, or AAtrex 4L at 2 quarts per

acre, right before planting. Work this into the soil with one disking. After the surviving nutsedge reaches a height of 6 to 8 inches, treat again with one and one-quarter to two and one-half pounds of AAtrex 80W or 1 to 2 quarts of AAtrex 4L per acre. This should be applied with a non-toxic oil or other "sticker."

A fourth effective treatment is AAtrex 80W at one and one-quarter pounds per acre, or AAtrex 4L at 1 quart per acre, plus Lasso at 2 quarts per acre. As with Sutan, this herbicide should be applied before planting corn. This treatment can be worked into the soil up to a week after application.

Sutan and Eradicane come already mixed with a

"safener," since these herbicides without the "safener" are known to injure certain corn hybrids. Sutan and Eradicane will last 6 to 8 weeks in the soil. AAtrex, at the recommended rate, won't last any longer. Dr. Hartwig says there

should be no herbicide injury to fall or spring seeded small grains or spring seeded legume or grass seedings. Consult your county agent for further details on control of yellow nutsedge in cornfields.

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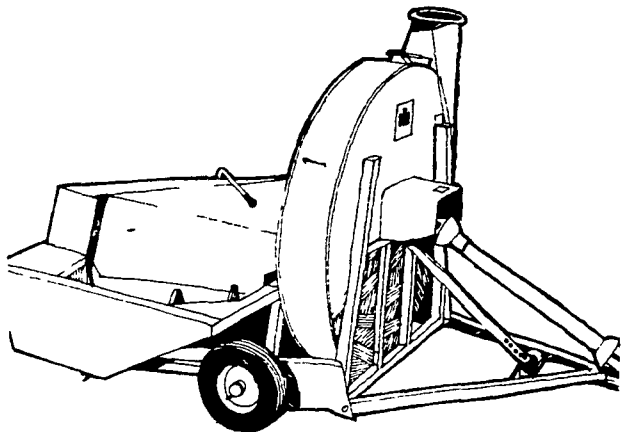


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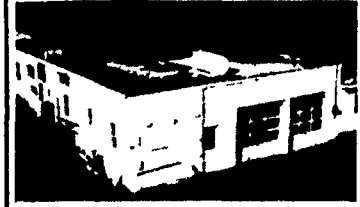
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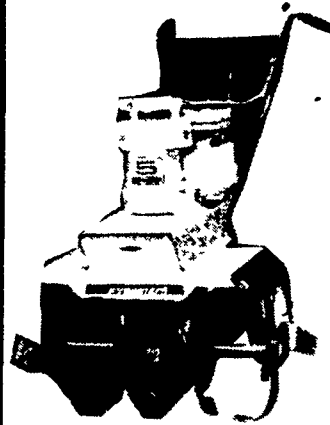
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