

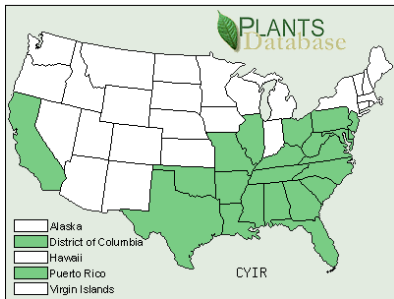


# Ricefield Flatsedge *Cyperus iria* L.

**Common Names:** grasshopper's cyperus, rice flat sedge, ricefield flatsedge, umbrella sedge

**Native Origin:** East Africa and central Asia through India to China and Japan, eastward to Malaysia and Australia

**Description:** An erect annual in the sedge family (*Cyperaceae*) growing 8 to 24 inches tall. The stems occur in bunches and are triangular. Dark green leaves are shiny, linear in outline but tapering to a point, and three-ranked. Individual leaves have rough margins toward the leaf tips. Terminal seedheads occur at the ends of the triangular stems. Seedheads may reach 8 inches in length and are composed of several dense spikes. Individual spikes are made up of many gold-to-brown spikelets. Seedheads have 3 to 7 unequal bracts surrounding the inflorescence and produce a three-angled brown fruit with one seed. It reproduces by seeds that spread in mud and water. The fibrous root system lacks tubers or rhizomes.



**Habitat:** It is located in open, wet places and grows in poor soils near waste grounds, ditches, and river banks. In Louisiana it grows well in seasonally wet to moist ground and on clay soils that hold water for a few days at a time during summer.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in NJ.

**Ecological Impacts:** Once established in wet situations, rice flatsedge can persist without wet soil, and can become a major agricultural weed in rice, cotton, soybean and other crops. It can also be a weed of concern for

container ornamentals, nurseries, landscapes, and turf.

### Control and Management:



- **Manual-** Hand pull before seed set
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled with the postemergence halosulfuron herbicide. Follow label and state requirements.

**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien), [www.hear.org/pier/species/cyperus\\_iria.htm](http://www.hear.org/pier/species/cyperus_iria.htm), <http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/cypiri.html>, [tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/global/australia/cya.html](http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/global/australia/cya.html), [www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed\\_id/cypir.htm](http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/cypir.htm), <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-08262002-112113/unrestricted/Introduction.pdf>