

Advice 07-2015 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the project of royal decree repealing the royal decree of 12 May 2011 laying down specific measures to control the yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus* L.) and to prevent its spread.

This advice concerns the assessment of the draft royal decree repealing the royal decree of 12 May 2011 laying down specific measures to fight against the yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus* L.) and to prevent its spread.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the yellow nutsedge presents a serious risk to agriculture seen its highly competitive nature with respect to certain field crops, vegetable crops and horticultural crops. The fight against this invasive species is necessary and still fully justified. The Scientific Committee has found that the prevalence of yellow nutsedge in Belgium and its spread in recent years appear to be wider now than in 2009 but remain poorly understood. However, the distribution appears quite heterogeneous according to Regions: some areas, especially in the Flemish Region, are quite heavily infested while yellow nutsedge seems rare in other Regions. The absence of controlled data does not allow to measure the exact distribution, the degree and speed of spread of the yellow nutsedge, nor the effects of specific control measures. Therefore, it is difficult to scientifically evaluate the effects of the Royal Decree of 12 May 2011 nor to study the risks of its repealing. However, it is necessary to preserve uninfested zones and to implement measures to limit the spread of yellow nutsedge and even to reduce the infestation in the infested zones.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".