

Solarization

Why is there black plastic covering this plant bed?

We are solarizing it, using heat from the sun, instead of chemicals to destroy the *Cyperus exculentus*.

The what?

This plant is also called chufa, water grass, almond grass, earth almonds, or tiger nuts. Here we usually call it nut grass or nut sedge. There are many plants in the sedge family. Papyrus is one of them.

Why does it grow so well in this area?

This bed has the necessary resources for it to grow: sun, soil, and excess moisture.

How did it get in here?

The seeds and bulblets could have been in the soil or compost that was brought in.



What is a bulblet?

A tiny round bulb that can become a plant. The bulblet on this plant can be down as deep as 10 inches! Each bulblet can produce many more plants. The plant can also spread through rhizomes.

Rhizomes?

A root like stem capable of growing more roots, stem, and leaves to make new plants.

How long will the solarization process take?

The space will need to bake under the sun for 6 weeks. We should be able to uncover it and replant before the High Holy Days.



Please do not walk on the plastic or do anything to poke holes in it. This would allow the heat to escape. Covering the plastic would block the sun stopping the process.



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