The purpose of this work was to study the weed nut-grass (*Cyperus rotundus* L.) with a view to finding out any information which might be of use in devising a method of controlling it under the conditions of Trinidad. Two lines of approach were adopted:

1. An attempt was made to estimate the seriousness of nut-grass as a weed, due to the dearth of literature on this subject.
2. A rough trial of one of the more promising methods of control was conducted.

**PRELIMINARY WORK**

**(a) Examination of literature**

Once the weed had been distinguished in the field from other members of the Cyperaceae, and its more obvious habits noted, a study was made of the existing literature on the weed which proved to be copious. This is no doubt due to the fact that nut-grass occurs throughout the tropics, subtropics and even certain temperate regions. Also, its very rapid means of vegetative spread from tubers makes it extremely difficult to control. References to its true seriousness, however, i.e. its depressant effect on crop yields, or the time or money spent in controlling it, are very rare.

The research into possible methods of control has been well reviewed by Sparrow (1958) and Lemaistre (1958). In essence, these are as follows. In regions with a severe dry season a good kill is obtained by deep ploughing during the dry period to a depth greater than that of the great majority of the tubers. In other areas frequent cultivations aimed at removing the foliage in order to weaken the tubers have had some effect, but were needed far too often to be an economic method of control. Numerous chemical weed-killers have been tried, especially 2,4-D. Most of these, including the latter, have the effect of killing the leaves and possibly the uppermost tuber, but are not translocated to the deeper tubers, which subsequently sprout. One method in use, therefore, is to cultivate the soil, which tends to separate the tubers and cause them to sprout, and then apply 2,4-D to the shoots; this is then repeated about six weeks later. For small areas fumigation with