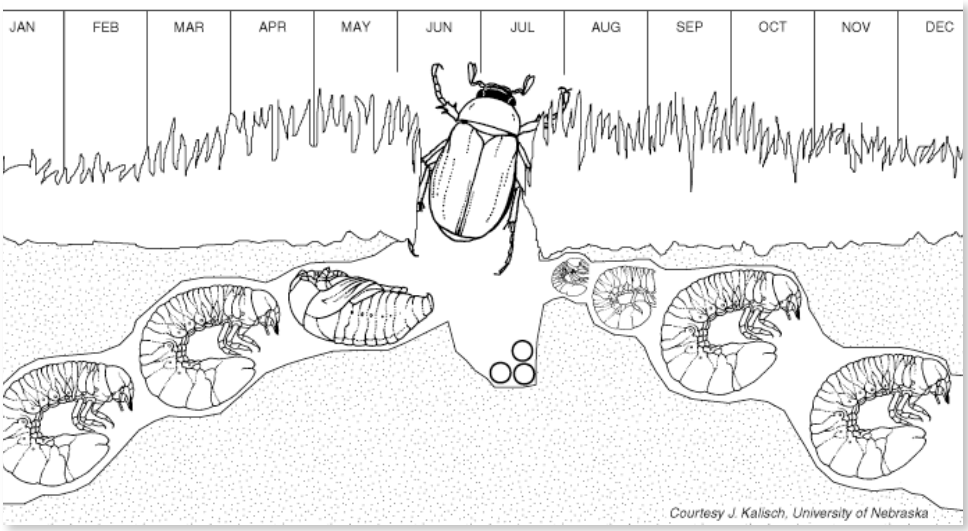
GRUB CONTROL



I have grubs in my yard, should I use an insecticide?

Finding grubs in your yard is not necessarily a bad thing; in fact, having a certain number of grubs in your lawn is perfectly normal and indicative of a healthy ecosystem in your property. A healthy lawn will be able to mask the symptoms of minor grub activity for many years.

But sometimes grubs get out of control and you wind up with an infestation - this is when you will start to see real damage to the lawn. Currently, an infestation is defined by the presence of 10 or more per square foot.

In short, if you see a grub when you are working in your garden or landscaping, don't panic. Do a little more exploring throughout your property to see if treatment is really needed - usually it is not.

Once you have established that treatment is needed, you will want to determine when you want to treat your yard, what you want to treat it with, and how you're going to do it. Flip this page over to find some helpful hints for controlling grubs in your yard.

In case of infestation...

The other side of this brochure you'll find an article with excerpts from the University of Rhode Island Extension and our Blue Grass Enterprises Newsletter, "The Turf Times."

Blue Grass Enterprises, Inc.

www.bgsod.com

Blue Grass Enterprises, Inc.

3965 C Ave Ext; Alburnett, IA 52202 P: 319-842-2165 F: 319-842-2173

GRUB CONTROL

Master Gardeners and Hotline volunteers answer questions by the thousands each year on how to control white grubs in lawns. Many times people apply too much or too little insecticide, treat areas that don't need treatment or apply insecticides at the wrong time of year. This set of procedures will help you successfully treat your lawn.

Step 1: Determine the Problem

Not all lawns have grub infestations that warrant control. Our best estimate is that in our area only 10-20% of lawns have damaging populations - and these infestations are often limited to a fraction of the lawn. Furthermore, lawns differ in susceptibility to white grubs because of differences in grass species, soil health, irrigation, amount of sun or shade, traffic, etc. Dense turf with a healthy root system can generally tolerate up to 10 grubs per square foot, although skunks, raccoons, birds and moles damage turf, seeking grubs in lower densities.

To determine how many grubs you have in your lawn you can use a spade to cut back a sample of turf. Count the grubs in the top three inches of soil and replace and water the turf. Take a dozen or so samples throughout the lawn to determine which areas may need curative treatment.

Adult beetles generally lay their eggs in July and most larvae should be present by early August, although in dry years development may be slowed. Depending on soil moisture, you may need to sample more than once to make sure you "capture" the grubs developing at your site. Since grubs are found in patches and do not generally infest the entire lawn, the more you sample, the more confidence you will have in treating only areas infested with grubs.

Step 2: Grub Identification

There are several white grub species that cause similar damage to lawns. Japanese beetles and Oriental beetles are the most common species. It is best to get your grubs identified to the species level to optimize choice of insecticide against these pests. Local garden centers may be able to help you with identification. If you want to try it yourself, you'll need a hand lens and some reference illustrations. Illustrations are available on the web at: http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2510.html.

Step 3: Treatment

The choice of products for use against white grubs changes every year as older products are withdrawn and new ones become available.

Acelepryn (grub preventer) is a newer product available to homeowners. It is an early spring (April and early May) application grub preventer that is often combined with a crabgrass preventer product. Acelepryn is a more targeted insecticide product, designed specifically for preventing grubs and billbug making it safer to use than traditional products like Imidacloprid (Merit or Zenith). Currently, it is the only product on the market labeled by the EPA as a “Low Risk Insecticide”. To date, Acelepryn has been through numerous third party tests and has shown to have no adverse affects to pollinator or earthworm populations.

Not everyone wants to put down grub preventers. If you elect to skip a grub preventer and you wind up with an infestation (of 10 or more grubs in a square foot), it is possible to treat the area with a curative called Dylox.

Dylox (trichlorfon). Dylox is a fast-acting insecticide. Dylox can be applied at any time of year, but it should only be applied to the affected area during the infestation. It is a true insecticide, meaning it will kill most (or possibly all) of the insects in the treated area - including desirable insects such as bees. It is especially important to follow instructions with this product and avoid applying it to any flowering plants, including clover or dandelions, that may attract pollinators.

In general, insect controls must be watered in to be effective. Read the label for specific instructions, but generally 1/4-1/2-inch of post-treatment irrigation is required. For most products, it is safe for people and pets to re-enter the treated areas once the product has dried after being watered in. Check the bag for specific instructions based on your selection.

Finally, regardless of which product you use, take extra care to avoid flowers such as clover, dandelions, or landscaping plants that may attract desirable pollinator species as a precaution.

Blue Grass Enterprises, Inc.