

GRUBWORM

How to control the 3-Year Life-Cycle

White Grubs are one of the most prevalent turf insects with over 100 species found in Texas alone! Adults are called May Beetles or "June Bugs" and larvae are called Grub Worms! Some adult beetles chew up leaves, but ALL grub worms feed on roots and other underground plant parts of flowers, vegetables, groundcovers, shrubs, pines, and ALL turf varieties.

May Beetles or "June Bugs" Require 3 Years to Complete Their Life Cycle!

1. During the FIRST YEAR from early spring to midsummer, female grub worms burrow through the turf into the soil and deposit tiny white eggs. This process is repeated for a number of days until 50 to 60 eggs have been laid. Eggs start to hatch in 10 to 21 days and newly born larvae begin feeding on roots immediately. Grubs feed for the remainder of the growing season on grass roots, then burrow below the frost line to overwinter.
2. In the spring of the SECOND YEAR, the grubs tunnel up the root zone and resume feeding. During this period the grass may be severely damaged. In the fall, they again burrow down below the frost line for overwintering purposes.
3. Feeding the THIRD YEAR stops by mid-June when a pupal cell is formed and the adults emerge from these pupae in July and August.

WHEN TO TREAT:

Active feeding can be expected throughout the season if grubs are less than 1/2" in length because they are probably only in the 2nd calendar year of their life cycle. Treatment may be effective ALMOST ANYTIME from the first part of May (if we have an early spring) or in the case of a late spring (mid-May) through September. According to Texas A&M the period of Critical Treatment for Lubbock and the High Plains is late-July to mid-August! This is the time when the most destructive damage occurs from the newly hatched young larvae.

SIMPLE RULE OF THUMB:

ANYTIME you find 3 or more grub worms per square foot of turf and they are less than 1/2" long... AND...the grubs are also located in the top 2" of the soil...THEN...treating the area with an insecticide is very much warranted. IN ADDITION...the critical treatment time period is late-July to mid-August.

Proper application procedure is important! The key to control is getting the 'grubicide' (chemical) to the grubs in the top 2" of the root zone at the proper time. Insecticides recommended for grub control are much less effective against eggs and large grubs than against small grubs.

A decline in the number of grubs should be observed about 30 days following treatment.

GRUB CONTROL:

The most effective way to control grubs is through application of a granular insecticide. Granular applications are easier than spray applications because of the consistent coverage and length of the residual effects. Simply pour the granules into a fertilizer spreader and apply across your lawn in two directions, criss-crossing to achieve good, complete coverage. There are several products to choose from to control grubs. Multi-insect killers such as Diazinon, Bayer Advanced Lawn Power Force and Talstar EZ will help control grubs, as well as many other insect pests, such as fleas and ticks. For the best control of grubs, use Bayer Advanced Lawn Season-Long Grub Control or Milky Spore, an organic

product. Apply a grub control anytime you find grubs or as a preventative. Bayer Advanced Lawn Season-Long Grub Control will control grubs for an entire season if applied after mid-late April.

A WORD ABOUT THATCH:

A thick, heavy thatch provides a haven for disease organisms and pest insects and leads to shallow root growth as well. Shallow root growth in turn makes the grass more susceptible to drought stress. A heavy thatch layer also reduces water movement into the soil as well as soil aeration. Recent research shows several insecticides are both physically and chemically bonded to the organic matter in thatch. So inspect your lawn and see if you have a potential thatch problem.

If you have any question please call, write or drop by:

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