

# Has Your Lawn Been Invaded by White Grubs?

## White Grub

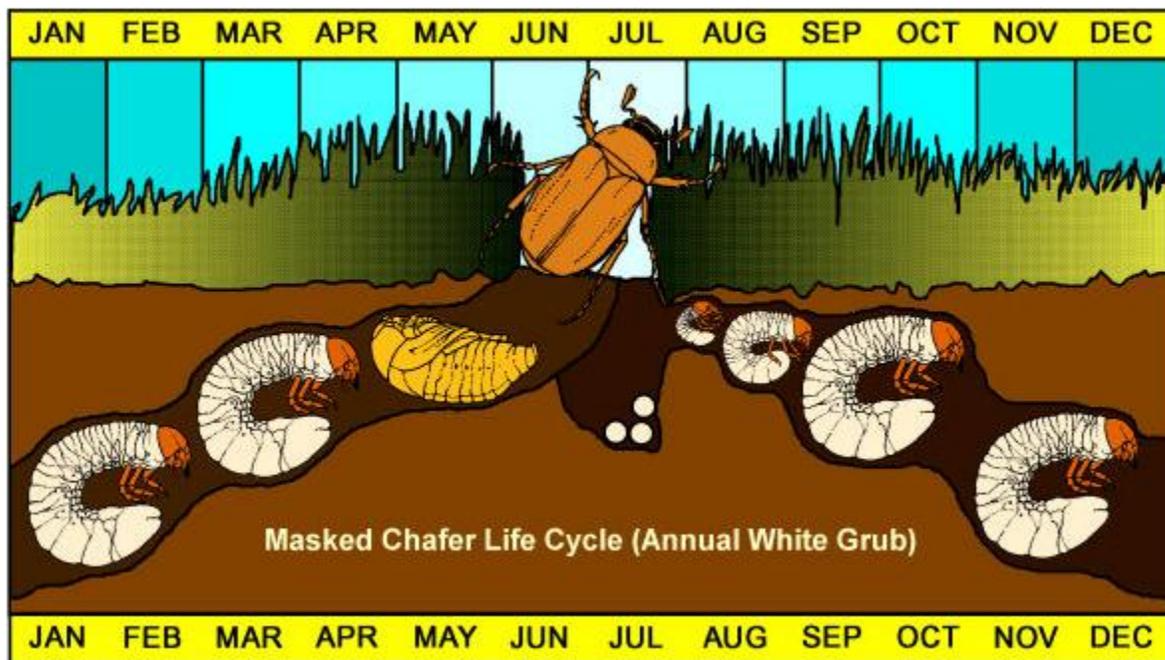


White grubs are the larvae of European Chafer Beetles (June Beetles). The white grubs feed on turf roots causing the area where they're feeding to brown, wilt, and (if left long enough) die. The root systems are damaged to the point where the lawn can be rolled back like a carpet. When the roots are severed the grass cannot absorb water and nutrients from the soil. Another sign of trouble ahead in your lawn is digging from animals such as skunks, raccoons, moles, voles and birds which like to tear up the lawns looking for grubs.

Grub damage can go from minimal to severe in a very short period of time if left un-treated.

While an application of nematodes later in the season, when the eggs are hatched & actively feeding, is the best method to rid your lawn of these pests, having a healthy lawn is essential in minimizing the problems associated with grub infestation.

Below is a chart of grub feeding cycles. In late July, and August is the best time to apply nematodes as they can infiltrate the grub while it's small and feeding. The grubs cannot be affected by nematodes in their larval stage as they are not ingesting any type of food rendering the nematode treatment ineffective.



There are other common turf issues that affect lawns in our area. Generally, they all stem from the same problem, improper turf care.

If you follow the steps below you can have a beautiful, healthy lawn your neighbours will be envious of and you can minimize damage by diseases & pests.

- Aeration & thatch control:
  - Aeration in spring & fall before top dressing and fertilizing maximizes the benefits.
  - Alleviates soil compaction and allows water & nutrients to penetrate to the roots.
  - Water issues arise from compacted soil, excess thatch, mowing practices and improper watering due to timing or amount
  - Dethatching limits risk of insects and disease by allowing the lawn to breathe.
- Topdress to improve soil quality:
  - Grass grows best in moist fertile soil that is not waterlogged.
  - Excess or insufficient water are the cause of almost all turf diseases
  - Sandy soil & heavy clay both need humus to improve texture.
  - A minimum of 4" (10cm) is needed for healthy grass growth – more is better.
  - Top dress your lawn with good quality soil (1/4" – 1/2") consisting of loam, peat moss & compost to improve soil conditions.
- Overseed:
  - Overseeding can be done in spring if your lawn has suffered winter damage.
  - Ideal time to introduce drought-resistant grass mixtures.
- Fertilize:
  - Very important to grass health

- Provides nutrient to out-grow weeds.
- Use a Fertilizer Spreader for even application.
- Timing is critical with fertilizers – in the fall, turf has stopped growing but the roots are still active.
- Follow-up in late May, early June with a good quality, possibly organic, fertilizer.
- Mowing:
  - Mow high – 6 – 8 cm (approx.. 3”) to prevent burn.
  - Mow frequently and trim no more than 1/3 of shoot length.
  - Leave clippings on lawn to provide natural source of nitrogen.
- Irrigation (watering):
  - Allow a healthy lawn to go dormant during extended dry periods. It can survive four to six weeks without adequate water.
  - Water only during extreme drought or if lawn is under stress.
  - If you do water:
    - Water deeply, 2.5cm (1”)
    - Water infrequently – less than once a week.
    - Water before 10:00 am to avoid evaporation for best results.

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