

The Turf Doctor

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European Crane Fly Larvae Update

Observations: The **European crane fly** continues to spread and increase in population, with extensive damage this spring. We are finding some larvae and damage on almost every lawn that was not treated last year. In the spring, large numbers of birds may be seen on the lawns searching for the larvae. They may come out on the drive and walks.

The **crane fly** prefer the better grasses of Kentucky Bluegrass (sod) and bentgrass and they leave the roughstalk bluegrass, K-31 tall fescue and the various perennial clump grasses.

The **appearance** of the lawn changes over time with a decrease in bluegrass and increase in course grasses and a general thinning down to bare soil. Large populations will kill the turf and re-seeding will be required.

The **adults**, look like a giant mosquito, and will emerge in Sept. They are nocturnal flyers but you may see them clinging to your windows, doors and siding in the fall. They will jump up in front of you as you mow or walk on the lawn. If you see the adults, you have them! It may just be a matter of time before their population is large enough to cause major damage.

Prevention measures: Substitute your summer and fall fertilizers, with a fertilizer (18-0-0) with Allectus insecticide. These two applications will give control of grubs, fleas, ticks, chinch bugs, sod webworm, cutworms and crane fly.

Cost = spring fertilization rate. Eg: Fertilization rate of \$60. Fertilization with Allectus would \$30 to each application. Lawns under 5,000 Sq. Ft. and over 20,000 Sq. ft. are less.

I strongly urge you to consider these applications.

Curative control measures: (Larvae present) Curative spring (April- July) and fall (Oct- Nov) control will continue to be done with Duocide insecticide. **Cost = 1.25 to 1.5 times your spring/crab fertilization rate.** If you receive a spring application, it will be necessary to repeat this in the fall combined with your fall fertilization. See prevention above.

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- Make a preventative application for crane fly this year by switching a fertilizer to one with a fertilizer /insecticide. You must respond by July 31st. After that date an application of Duocide will be necessary.
 - Make a curative application of Duocide (May-July or Oct-Nov)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City/ Zip: _____