

# The Turf Doctor

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## White Grubs Fact Sheet

White grubs are the larval stage of various beetles and can cause serious damage to turf. In our area we have the European chaffer, Oriental beetle and the Japanese beetle, which is the most common. The adult stage of this insect can cause extensive damage to trees and shrubs. Understanding of the life cycle is important for effective control.

Grubs over-winter below frost and begin moving to the surface as the soil warms up. Grubs feed for a brief period of time before pupating into an adult (July). Adults will begin laying eggs in the turf. The eggs hatch in late summer to fall and begin feeding on the roots. Grub damaged turf will peel back like a carpet. Damage may also be severe from moles, skunks, raccoons and birds feeding on the grubs. Please note that the presence of moles does not mean you have grubs! Their main diet is earthworms. Areas that do not look good in October should be scouted for grubs.

**Curative control:** Curative control (Dylox) can be done in the spring or fall. A spring application will not control the next generation of grubs. An application of Allectus will be necessary to get your lawn on a once a year preventative schedule.

**Cost (Dylox) is equal to 1.5 X spring/crab fertilization rate. Eg spring fert = \$50 X 1.5 = \$75.**

**Preventative control:** Allectus insecticide with fertilizer offers season long control of grubs with one application in June to July. A single application before the eggs hatch offers excellent control. This insecticide goes down at extremely low rates and is very safe in the environment. This product is widely used on dogs and cats for fleas and ticks. Since even distribution is critical, we use a fertilizer/insecticide combo product. This means that grub control will not be an extra application. We substitute your June/July fertilizer with a fertilizer with insecticide.

**Cost is equal to .5X June fertilization rate. Eg June fert=\$50, Fertilizer w/insecticide = \$75**

Keep in mind that grub control is done to protect the turf from damage. You may find a grub in your landscape beds or lawn. Yearly grub control may not reduce your adult population, since they can fly in from anywhere. Adults feed on landscape plants.

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↑ Add grub control to my program!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_