

Turf Grubs (various species)

DESCRIPTION:

Grubs are larvae of insects such as Japanese beetles, June beetles and other species that feed on grass roots in soil. Eggs typically hatch in mid-to-late summer about two weeks after they are laid. Grubs begin to feed as soon as they hatch and burrow down to eight inches into the soil. The grubs feed on grass roots in the spring, then change into pupae that emerge as adult beetles in the summer.

HOSTS:

Most turfs are susceptible to grubs. Adult beetles of some species are commonly attracted to small shrubs and flowering plants such as roses and Japanese maple trees.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

Grubs are common in landscapes that have hosted beetles throughout the summer. Patches of dead grass are common indications of grubs. You may notice animals such as birds or raccoons digging in your yard, or patches of your lawn coming so loose you can peel pieces away from the soil. Your turf may also have a spongy texture before signs of decay appear.

MANAGEMENT:

Applying foliar insecticides to control adults may provide partial control. Soil applications of systemic insecticides offer a more effective control method. Avoid applications while bees and other pollinators are visiting flowering plants.



A



B

FIGURE A. TURF GRUB IN SOIL

FIGURE B. DAMAGE TO TURF BY TURF GRUBS

*The scientists at **The Davey Institute** laboratory and research facility support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult *The Davey Institute PHC Handbook*.*

