WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?



01

Chafer Larvae (Grubs)

Grubs are recognizable by their white C-shaped body and brown heads. Mature chafer grubs are approximately 25mm long when fully grown.



02

European Chafer Beetle

Adult European Chafer beetles are tan or brown beetles resembling June beetles but measure only about 1.5cm in length.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Chafer beetle infestations can be very damaging to lawns, crops and plants. Beetle larvae, or grubs, eat the roots of grass, damaging the grass and creating brown, dying patches on your lawn. The grubs also attract animals like birds, skunks and raccoons who dig up the grass to eat them. Grubs prefer grass, however, if food is scarce they will also eat the roots of crops, including corn, potatoes, berries and the root systems of ornamental and nursery plants.



For more information, please refer to the City's webpage on European Chafer Beetles

Engineering Phone Line: 604-793-2907

CITY OF CHILLIWACK

www.chilliwack.com/chaferbeetle

CITY OF CHILLIWACK

PROTECT YOUR LAWN FROM THE EUROPEAN CHAFER BEETLE

The European Chafer Beetle is an invasive insect that has been causing damage to lawns in the Lower Mainland since 2001.

HOW CAN I HELP PREVENT THEM?

MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LAWN: Keep up your turf routine! Aerate, fertilize, and water your lawn to boost resiliency. **Note:** Summer lawn watering restrictions are in effect from May 1st - October 15th.

MOW YOUR GRASS LONGER (6-9CM): Long grass is more difficult for female beetles to lay eggs in and has higher drought tolerance.

TRY DIFFERENT TYPES OF GROUND COVER: Adding 5% clover, moss or creeping thyme into your lawn creates heavier root mass, making it harder for grubs to wear away at it. Consider lawn substitutes, such as xeriscaping, pollinator gardens or raised beds. Synthetic lawns are not recommended because they are not environmentally-friendly.

USE BARRIERS: To prevent infestation, cover your lawn with cloth or landscape fabric during the mating and egg-laying cycle in summer. Barriers during spring and fall can also help prevent birds and mammals from digging up the grubs.

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY YARD BECOMES INFESTED?

WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO TREAT: The best time to treat is from April to September when grubs are close to the surface and the soil is warm and moist. Winter treatment is not recommended because the treatments become inactive in cold weather.

WHAT TO USE:

- **Btg**: Bacillus thuringiensis galleriae, or Btg for short, is a non-chemical bacteria that kills grubs or beetles when ingested. This option is sold under trade names such as Grub B Gon, GrubGone G, and grubGONE!, and is the recommended control method.
- **Parasitic Nematodes:** Nematodes are microscopic roundworms that kill grubs when ingested. Effectiveness of nematodes is often limited due to soil temperature, moisture levels, and timing of application.

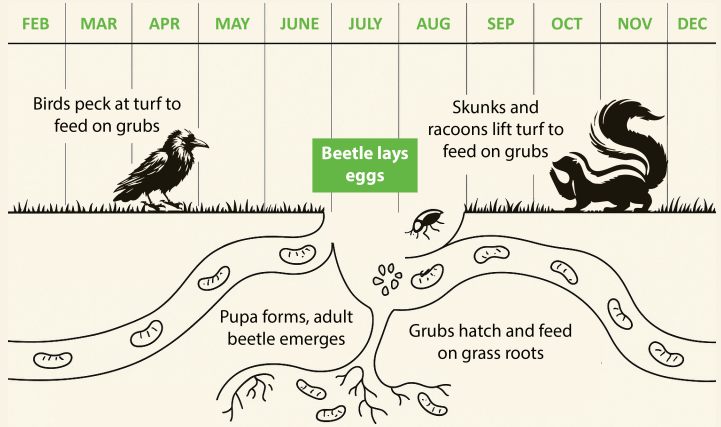
Both Btg and Nematodes can be purchased at most local garden centres and department stores.

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY LAWN IS INFESTED?

The beetles tend to infiltrate the soil in summer to lay their eggs. These eggs hatch into grubs and begin to feed on grass roots, creating brown, dying patches. Animals like birds, skunks and raccoons start smelling the grubs and digging for them in fall and early spring. This is when the most damage occurs.

MONITORING: To check for grubs, cut 3 sides of a 30 by 30 cm piece of sod to a depth of 5 cm, and fold it back to count the grubs. Generally if more than 20 grubs are found, control is warranted.







WHAT DO I DO WITH THE INFESTED SOIL?

DON'T REMOVE THE SOIL: Soil from infested areas should not be removed due to the high risk of spread. Instead, the ground should be tilled and a new layer of sod, alternative ground cover, seeds and fertilizer laid on top to improve growing conditions. Over time, natural bacteria and fungus in the soil reduce the number of grubs.

> ***Soil and sod are NOT accepted in curbside Green Carts***