



# Turf Grass Insect Pests

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Insect	Description	Symptoms	Controls	
				Chemical
Ants	Red to black in color Three distinct body sections	Make soil mounds Disturb roots Act as disease vectors	Controlling aphids drives ants away Drench nests with hot water	Use baits to control visible ants Apply insecticide granules to nesting areas
Cutworm	Plump, smooth, greasy-looking greenish, brownish, grayish, or striped bodies up to one and a quarter inches long	Feed on grass blades and cut off plants near soil surface	Birds, insects, other predators	Treat only if serious Carbaryl, mavrik, acephate, others
Sod Webworm	Moths -- one inch long and whitish gray or brown Caterpillar -- 3/4 inch long, light brown, covered with coarse hair, may have dark spots on body	Caterpillar feeds on grass blades Browned out patches Moths fly from grass in zigzag pattern	Birds, insects, other predators	Treat only if serious Carbaryl, mavrik, acephate, others
Bluegrass Billbugs	1/4 inch long black weevil with distinct snout Newly emerged adult is brown Larvae -- legless and white, with brown heads, 1/4 inch long Larvae found in or just below thatch layer	Young larvae feed inside stems, hollowing out stem and crown Older larvae eat roots A general thinning of the lawn Individual plants can be pulled from the soil		Spray in early May to kill adults before egg-laying Carbaryl, Merit
White Grubs	3 year life cycle Overwinters as off-white larvae and brown beetle adults in soil Eggs - in soil	Wilting, brown patches of dead grass which can be rolled back like carpet	Deep tillage	Necessary if 3 or more grubs per square foot Carbaryl, others