

Grubs



What are grubs?

Grubs are the larval form of beetles that feed on grass roots. Some grubs are a natural part of all lawns but having too many means they eat the roots faster than the grass can regrow them.



Do You Have a Grub Problem?

Cut a 1' x 1' square of turf and pull it back. If you count more than 5-10 grubs in that area then you have a grub population that is large enough to damage your lawn.

The most common grubs to cause lawn damage are non-native species including the European Chafer, Japanese beetles, and Asiatic Garden beetles. Contact your local Cooperative Extension office or visit ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-2510 for help identifying your grubs.

How to Reduce Grub Damage

Don't use Japanese beetle traps, they can attract more adult beetles to visit and lay eggs in your yard.

Remove undesired beetles from plants and put them in soapy water. Beetle-damaged plants emit chemicals that attract more beetles!

Cover plants with fine netting to prevent beetles from reaching them (don't do this when plants are in bloom and need pollinators to reach them).

Watering wisely can help the grass regrow roots after grub damage.

Use beneficial nematodes to spread grub-eating bacteria. Beneficial nematodes need to be special ordered and used quickly. They will target any type of grub but they must be applied under the right conditions to work.

Beneficial Nematodes

Carefully follow package instructions when applying nematodes to ensure maximum effectiveness. Plan to apply nematodes at least three years in a row to improve your odds of success.

Before applying, rake up dead grass and thatch to help nematodes enter the soil. Apply early morning or on a cloudy day.

Water nematodes in with a half inch of water when grubs have recently hatched:

- For European Chafer grubs, apply nematodes **late-July**.
- For Japanese and/or Asiatic Garden grubs, apply nematodes in **mid-late August**.

Reseed areas damaged by grubs.

Keep in mind that nematodes are living creatures and cannot be used at the same times as pesticides. This will kill them before they can help get rid of the grubs.

