



THE TURF PROS

"The grass is greener on our side!"

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Common Lawn Insects and Pests



Grubs

Lawn grubs are the larval form of Japanese Beetles. Grubs are a big problem in the Northeast, Midwest and Southwest, where irrigated turf provides a grub oasis in the otherwise desert country. Grubs make their presence known by creating patches of

dying lawn as they devour grass roots. Sometimes you'll also notice places where the lawn has been burrowed as hungry skunks and moles dig for grubs.

Japanese Beetles

When it comes to identifying what's chomping your lawn, much of the time you have to rely on clues. With Japanese beetles, for instance, you may see beetles physically on the lawn. Most likely they're laying eggs in the soil and not really feasting on turf. But if you see Japanese beetle or June beetle adults elsewhere in your garden (maybe feeding on roses or raspberries) and later see places in your lawn that are dying, chances are you're dealing with lawn grubs.



Moles

When moles are at work, you'll see volcano-like mounds of soil and raised ridges (feeding tunnels) running through turf. The soil mounds are the spots where moles push to the surface all the soil they're excavating from the deeper tunnels you can't see.

Moles tunnel through lawns feasting on insects, worms and grubs. They're more common in overwatered lawns, because damp soil is easier to dig. Traps work but definitely have a high ick factor.



Voles

As snow melts in spring, it's not uncommon to spot this type of lawn damage. These aren't the lawn equivalent of crop circles; they're pathways created by voles, which are small rodents. These critters chew their way through grass and then literally beat a path through those areas. Hidden beneath snow,

voles roam freely across lawns in open areas. After snow melts, they retreat to brush and long grass, cover that hides them from predators like hawks and cats. Fill in vole trails with quality potting soil or compost.



Chinch Bugs

Chinch bugs tend to attack lawn in sunny areas, sucking the juices from individual grass plants and injecting toxins that loosen grass from soil. These insects are tiny, only 1/20 of an inch, and have black bodies with shiny white wings. Chinch bugs tend to dwell in the thatch layer or in the crowns of individual grass

plants. You can see them with the naked eye on a lawn if you get down to grass level, but using a drench or floatation test works better. Dethatch your lawn when needed to reduce hiding places for these insects.



Ants/Ticks/Fleas

Ants, ticks and fleas do not damage turf. They are, however a nuisance, and at worst a serious health threat. The Deer Tick can transmit the serious and often disabling, Lyme Disease. Worst yet, these pests can be carried

inside on the family pet, or clothes of children who have played in areas containing the pest.

