

Grub Control in Home Lawns

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Listed below are trade names and common chemical names of insecticides available to homeowners for controlling white grubs in lawns.



White grub damage.

Preventative Control Products

Due to the development of new and improved insecticide chemistries, season-long residual or "preventive" controls of white grubs are now available, and are becoming the preferred management strategy. Preventative control strategies require insecticide application prior to egg lay or hatch. Timing varies depending on grub species: May/June beetle; late-May – early-June, and Japanese beetle; late-June – late-July.

| Preventative Control Products | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Trade Name | Company | Common Chemical Name | Overall Toxicity | Application Timing |
| Season-Long Grub Control | Bayer Advanced Lawn | Imidacloprid | Low | Late-May – Late July |
| GrubEx | Scotts | halofenozide | Low | Late-May – Late July |

Applications of preventative control products should not be made after **August 1st**!



Curative Control Products

The curative control approach entails applying a control product when grubs are present, active, and causing measurable damage. Insecticides should be applied when grubs are feeding in the root zone. However, greater control can be attained if the insecticide is applied to smaller or younger grubs – usually in July for May/June beetles, or August for Japanese beetles.

| Curative Control Products | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Trade Name | Company | Common Chemical Name | Overall Toxicity | Application Timing |
| 24 Hour Grub Killer | Bayer | trichlorfon | Low | Mid-May – Early October |
| Sevin | Numerous | carbaryl | Low | Mid-May – Early October |
| Diazinon | Numerous | diazinon | High | No longer recommended. |
| Dursban | Numerous | chlorpyrifos | High | No longer recommended |

Remember that grubs feed in the root zone. Thus the control product must reach them in order to be effective. Therefore, regardless of insecticide brand or formulation, you **must** water the insecticide into the root zone to achieve maximum effectiveness. Apply at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of irrigation or rainfall on sandy soils, and up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch on heavier clay soils. Apply water within 24 hours after application to get the most benefit from insecticides. For spray formulations, **wash spray off grass plants and into the soil before the spray dries.** Liquid formulations of some products have shown greater efficiency.

For more information on May/June beetles and Japanese beetles: See UW-Extension bulletins A3275 and A3714, and UW-Extension Garden Facts X1062, or contact your county Extension agent.