

TURF PESTS AND CONTROLS

PEST	DAMAGE	LARVAE	ADULT	WINTERTIME	CONTROLS
BILLBUGS	Emerging larvae eat the stems near the crown. Stems turn brown and die. As the weather warms, the larvae go below ground and eat roots.	White, humpbacked, look like puffed rice, 1/2" - 3/4" long.	Brown or gray, 1/4" - 1/2" long.	As an adult, emerge April or May. Lay eggs in May-June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aerate turf areas in April-May (thatch as well if debris is deeper than 1/2"). 2. Water deeply in spring to encourage deeper roots. 3. Apply rotenone (insecticide).
WHITE GRUBS	Turf areas feel spongy and pull up easily. Brown patches develop.	White with brown head, six prominent legs, 1" - 1 1/2" long.	Many varieties of beetle.	In grub stage. Damage occurs April-May and Sept-Oct.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply diatomaceous earth over soil surface to control surface-feeding grubs. 2. Spray Margosan-O (a neem extract) over entire lawn during surface stage. 3. Apply Scanmask (insecticide) as spot treatment for small infestations (predatory nematodes). 4. Water grass lightly and frequently to offset the loss of roots and stems to grubs.
LEAFHOPPERS	Turf takes on a silver cast. Insects suck juices out of phloem tissue.	Nymphs that produce large amounts of honeydew.	Pale green wedge-shaped insect, 1/8" long.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Light dusting of pyrethrum (insecticide) on new lawns, no control on established lawns.
SOD WEBWORMS	Grass blades chewed. Results are yellowish-brown resembling drought damage.	Prominent hooks on its prolegs, 1/2" - 3/4" long.	Buff-colored lawn moth.	Silk-lined burrows in thatch layer.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thatch lawn in March-April. 2. Aerate lawn in April. 3. Water deeply in spring to encourage strong roots. 4. Apply Bacillus thuringiensis (insecticide) during larval stage.
APHIDS	Leaves are stunted and curled. Honeydew attracts ants.	Live young	Gray, greenish yellow or black, 1/8" - 1/4" long, soft bodied.	Egg stage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spray horticultural oil January-February to kill eggs. 2. Spot treat small outbreaks with Safer Insecticidal Soap. 3. Note locations of all host plants for use in winter spray program. 4. Apply Sunspray (summer oil) to host plants any day temperatures are under 95 degrees.
SPIDER MITES	Leaves have many small needle-like holes. Webs appear in leaf axils or branch crotches.	Eggs	Yellow, greenish, brown or red. Eight-legged. No bigger than head of a pin.	Eggs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hose down affected plants or add a mister nozzle to the drip line in the vicinity of the plant to increase humidity in the area. 2. Use a hose-end sprayer to apply soap solution or insecticidal soap. 3. Note locations of host plants for use in winter spray program. 4. Spray dormant oils on affected plants in January-March.