



PEST OF THE MONTH

July

European Chafer

European Chafer is a real pest in grass and turf. The large grubs feed on roots of many different plants but prefer the roots of grasses. Lawns and grass may feel “spongy” due to a chafer infestation. Birds and other predators often dig up lawns and grasses in order to obtain the grubs for food, but as a result destroy the beautiful lawns. Lawns and grass will become wilted and dead as the grubs continue to feed on the roots. After eggs are laid, it takes roughly 2 weeks for the grubs to hatch and start their vicious feeding cycle.

European Chafer grubs are C-shaped, pale white with dark tan heads and 6 prominent legs. They measure 2-2.5cm.

Nematodes, specifically the *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* which is part of our lawn and garden combo, target the European Chafer. Adult chafers lay their eggs end of June. After two weeks the eggs hatch and the grubs go to work! The second and third week of July is the ideal time to apply nematodes for European Chafers. Damage may be seen in early spring (March) but it is too cold to use nematodes and the nematodes are less affective on large grubs. The next generation has to be targeted in summer. The nematodes enter the grubs and inject a bacterium, that is only associated with beneficial nematodes, which kills the grubs. Once inside, nematodes feed on the grubs, reproduce and develop inside the grub, then burst out to infect new pests and grubs.

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