

# **BOBBY LAWN** **NEWSLETTER**



## **GRUBS**

April/May 2000

Welcome to the year 2000. This season should prove to be interesting for the lawn care industry. Will we have a wet season, a season with ample rainfall when we need it, or another drought as we have had the past two years. It's hard to say. Let's hope for something we all can cope with.

How many of you have had an infestation of grubs in the past? You know the damage these pests can do to a lawn, from small localised areas to total destruction of your lawn. Also the damage caused by skunks, racoons, and birds turning over the sod looking for a free meal, usually in the late fall or early spring. When the animals are digging in the spring is not the time to treat for grubs. The grubs are not causing significant damage to the turf. The fact that they are there gives the animals their meal. Treating at this time, with the grubs at their largest stage before pupating, will not accomplish any significant control if any. With all the damage caused by these insects repair of your lawn can be expensive, time consuming, and unsightly. There are several types of grubs but the ones we

are concerned with, are the larva (young) of the *European Chafer*. This is a beetle much the same as a *June Bug* beetle. The *European Chafer* is slightly smaller, and a lighter tan colour than a *June Bug*. Unless you had one of each in your hand it would be difficult to tell the difference between the two, hence most people call them *June Bugs*.

The adults emerge out of the soil from mid June to early July when you will see them in the evenings flying around trees and shrubs. After they mate, the females then drop to the turf and lay their eggs in the soil beneath your lawn. When you notice this flight of the adults at dusk on warm evenings it is a good indication of potential damage to your lawn. In about two or three weeks the eggs hatch into small grubs approximately 2-4 mm (1/16"-1/8") long. The general description of the grub is off white, C-shaped (curled as bent finger), with a brown head, dark hind end, and six spiny legs. These tiny grubs immediately begin to feed on the roots of many plants, but favour the roots of turfgrass. As the roots are eaten, areas of your lawn start to die off, so here is where our problem begins. By the end of September the

grubs have matured to their full size approx. 2 cm (¾”) long.

In 1999 a new product was registered by Agriculture Canada to help us in our quest for the lawn everyone wants. **Merit**, for the control of grubs in lawns, has been a long awaited product. This new product, developed by **Bayer Inc.**, provides outstanding results in the control of grubs and states a more than 90% effectiveness rate. **Merit** has many advantages over previous grub control products. **Merit** has no odour. Anyone at all who has had grub control applied to their lawn in the past knows about the unpleasant smell of the application and will appreciate the loss of the offensive odour. Less watering is required after the application of **Merit**. Previous grub controls have needed 4 – 5 hours of watering (1 – 1½ inches of water) after an application, whereas now only about ¼ - ½ inch (approx. 1 hour) of water will be needed, and this may be administered up to 48 hours after the application.

There is one drawback however, to the use of **Merit**. Here is where the past history of your lawn is necessary. **Merit** is a preventative product, and must be applied by the end of July to be effective, before any grub damage is detected, and in some cases even before eggs are laid. We will be treating lawns with **Merit** from mid June to the end of July, so it is essential grub control be booked early.

If you have any questions about grubs, grub control, or any other lawn care questions call us. We would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.