

## ***White Grub Control in Lawns***

Willie Chance

UGA Extension, Houston County  
(478) 987-2028, [wchance@uga.edu](mailto:wchance@uga.edu)

Summer is the time for vacations, swimming, celebrations etc. In the garden, it is also time for a few chores! Late June and early July is a good time to control certain lawn pests.

Early July is a good time to treat for white grubs. Before you treat, make sure you have a white grub problem. Few lawns have these but they can be damaging if you do. Have you seen the beetles that are buzzing around the landscape? These are the adults of the white grubs. They lay eggs in lawns May through June or later to produce the next generation of white grubs.

July is a good time to treat for white grubs. As they get larger, they become difficult to control. How do we know if we need to apply an insecticide? Have the grubs been enough of a problem in the past to require a treatment? If not, then I would probably not treat.

Many people seem to think they have white grubs but few actually have enough to be concerned about. We diagnose this problem by digging in the soil in green turf at the edge of weak or dead areas. We cannot diagnose white grubs just by looking at the top of the soil. We must dig to find and identify the pests. This should have been done before mid-May since white grubs begin leave the soil then. Generally we are not concerned unless we see at least 4 white grubs per square foot of soil. Once we find this many grubs, then we need to identify them to see how much of a problem they will be. Lawns may withstand up to 10 grubs per square foot depending on the type of grub and the condition of the lawn. For more information see our publication on white grubs on the web at <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/l428-w.html>

If you have a recurring white grub problem, you may want to treat for them. Kill them using imidacloprid or trichlorfon (both sold by Bayer Advanced) or Grub Be Gon containing halofenozide. Notice that imidacloprid works for both white grubs and mole crickets. Remember to treat in late June or early July for best control. Later applications made when grubs are large, may work poorly or not at all.