



Photos by T. Royer

May or June Beetles Infesting Oklahoma Turf

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Objective

Determine which May or June beetles infest bermudagrass on Oklahoma golf courses and document their seasonal flight patterns.

Summary

White grubs are the larvae of a group of Scarab beetles, including several species of Phyllophaga (May or June beetles), that are pests of managed turfgrass. More than 70 species of May or June beetles occur in Oklahoma, but little is known about which species are potential turf pests. To determine the best timing for pesticide applications for controlling white grubs, it is necessary to identify the pest species, their locations and seasonal flight patterns.

Ultraviolet light traps were placed at seven golf courses throughout Oklahoma in 2005 and 2006 to capture beetles. Captured beetles were collected and identified.

Results

- By sampling throughout the state and using DNA testing to identify species, nine Phyllophaga species were identified as turf pests in Oklahoma.
- It is recommended that preventive white grub treatments be applied in Oklahoma from June 1 through July 1 to control May or June beetles in turfgrass.



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