



Lawn Grubs

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Lawns in summer and autumn can sometimes become overwhelmed by lawn grubs. The first signs are dead patches in the lawn as pictured below.



They are the larvae of a number of different beetles but most commonly African Black beetles. The eggs are laid in the ground and then hatch to begin foraging on the roots from grasses and other plants. The larvae grow and pupate during late autumn, winter and early spring. Curl grubs are favourite bandicoot fare and small conical holes in lawns or larger excavations within gardens are the telltale signs of bandicoot activity. Wasps also parasitise curl grubs by piercing the skin and laying their eggs inside. The young wasps hatch and live inside the body, eating the non-essential tissues of the curl grub before finally emerging through the body wall of the larvae and ultimately causing its death.

They are also commonly known as curl grubs and may also be the beetle larvae from Christmas beetles, cane beetles, dung beetles, flower scarabs and rhinoceros beetles. The larvae vary in size with the large rhinoceros beetle larvae (pictured) growing up to 70mm long.

Control measures include using

Insecticide registered for lawn grubs including Congard

Ecogrub

Spinosad (sold by Yates as Success)

Molasses spray is recommended by many growers including Annette McFarlane (Brisbane horticulturist and organic gardening guru)

Let nature, bandicoots and birds help out and deal with some damage!

Annette McFarlane's Molasses Spray

Dissolve one tablespoon of molasses into a litre of warm water.

Add one teaspoon of Sunlight dish washing liquid or other pure liquid soap

Spray regularly over the leaves of all plants attacked by caterpillars and other chewing pests.

Caterpillars would rather starve than eat leaves sprayed with this mixture. It has also been used with success by some gardeners as a possum repellent and for the treatment of soil affected by root knot nematodes by doubling the concentration of molasses.