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Japanese Beetle, Please Step Aside

No longer is the Japanese Beetle (or grub) listed as our most obnoxious summer insect pest. Rapidly taking over the number one spot is the newcomer — *ATAENIUS SPRETULUS*; a grub only about one tenth the size of our former number one enemy. *Ataenius Spretulus* has emerged through out the Mid-Atlantic as the most destructive grub ever to be coped with. Wide spread infestations have been noted on many area golf courses, taking on the appearance of wilted out patches ranging in size from four inches to two feet in diameter. Another tell-tale sign is any areas birds begin to chew up that are wilted in appearance (also skunk damaged areas).

The insects in early July will be located in the soil immediately below the thatch, ranging in number from 20 to 150 individual grubs per square foot. This insect is attracted to any poorly drained areas. The mature beetle is black in color and difficult to see without close observation.

Control Methods:

The Eastern Region of the U.S.G.A. Greens Section reports: "Preliminary findings indicate that the best time to apply Diazinon or Dursban for control is late May. With specific research lacking, the rates at the time of this letter are tentatively Diazinon at four pounds active per acre and Dursban at two pounds active per acre. Aeration and/or spiking of infested areas prior to application of the insecticide is recommended. Wetting agents to further aid in the penetration of the insecticides may also be helpful. The insecticides must also be watered in very well. Insecticides are most effective when applied to young stages of insect development. Presently there appears to be only one annual brood." The above quote was taken from Bill Smart's Hudson Valley "Foreground".

Turf damage from *Ataenius Spretulus* is being reported all along the East coast, predominately north of us. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Ohio newsletters all report of heavy grub damage this year. We can now add the states of Maryland and Virginia (and presumably Pennsylvania and Delaware) to the southward movement of the *Ataenius Spretulus* grub.