

Tour Stop #8: Dealing with New Grub and European Crane Fly Problems on Michigan Golf Courses

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GRUBS Oriental beetle can now be found throughout much of southern Michigan and is now becoming a problem on some golf courses in the Detroit area. Fortunately, the same insecticides that work for Japanese beetle are also effective against Oriental beetle. In addition, many golf courses have been forced to tighten budgets the last two years. This means some golf course that treated all of their fairways and roughs for grubs are now only treating fairways, or only tees and greens. Golf courses that did not treat fairways with Merit or another nicotinoid insecticide this year should be scouting for grub problems in September and October, and be prepared to make spot-treatments as follows:

Standard grub prevention treatments applied between late May and early August-
Merit, Allectus, Arena, Meridian, Aloft, Acelepryn

Scouting for grubs in September and October and spot-treatments-

- Look for wilting and death of turf in patches
- Look for places where skunks, raccoons or crows have dug in the turf
- Pull up cup-cutter samples or turf squares from places with the symptoms above and look for grubs. More than 10 grubs per square foot can attract skunks and may damage turf if it becomes too dry.

For fairways or surrounding turf with skunk damage or more than 10 grubs per square foot-

- Step-up irrigation to make sure the turf in those areas is not drought-stressed during dry periods.
- Spot-treat the infested areas with Sevin or Dylox at the grub rate (8 – 10 lbs ai/acre for Sevin).
- Check the soil pH in infested areas. If the pH is > 7.8 treat grub-infested areas a second time 1 – 2 weeks after the first treatment.

EUROPEAN CRANE FLY Some superintendents in the Detroit area were surprised this spring and early summer to find European crane fly larvae in patches of the fairway with turf damage. Thinking back to last fall, the same areas began to look bad then, but the superintendents assumed it was grub damage. At this time we are only finding European crane fly in the greater Detroit area, but it will spread throughout Michigan over the next 10 years. In order to prevent European crane fly damage this fall and next spring, apply Sevin, Acelepryn, or Arena at the grub rate in early October. If European crane fly is discovered in the spring, Arena and Safari are good choices for a curative application in late May or early June. For detailed information on the life cycle, damage and insecticide treatments read this article from Golf Course Management magazine:

<http://www.gcsaa.org/GCM/2009/march/pdfs/craneflies.pdf>