Multiple Targeting...

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similar. As always, it is good practice not to overdo it with any one class of pesticide.

Therefore, I disagree with some authorities who broadly promote early spring preventive treatments under the auspices of multiple targeting. One publication, for example, states that if grubs are the primary target, early May is the optimal time to apply Merit® on northern golf courses because such timing also gives season-long control of secondary pests such as billbug larvae, first-generation cutworm larvae, greenbug aphids, and frit fly. In my experience, those secondary pests don't often occur at high enough levels in fairways to justify applying a grub treatment that early. The same source recommends late April through May as the optimal time to apply Merit® for grub control on northern lawns because secondary pests, such as billbug larvae, greenbug aphid, and chinch bugs, will also be suppressed. Again, in my view, those pests don't occur often enough, or at high enough levels, to warrant treating 1–2 months earlier than the optimum window for the primary target. Should surface-feeding pests, such as sod webworms and cutworms, approach intolerable levels, they are relatively easy to control by spot-treating with a fast-acting, short residual insecticide.

When multiple-targeting BTA and annual grub species with preventive soil insecticides, use the highest labeled rate and treat shortly before egg hatch of BTA. This treatment timing, generally mid- to late-May, increases the likelihood that sufficient residue will persist into July and August. For grub management on lawns or sports fields, or on golf courses without a history of BTA, there is little justification to apply Merit® or MACH 2® any earlier than early to mid-June. Stewardship of these products warrants that we use them selectively, during optimum windows, rather than as a routine, season-long cure-all for secondary pests that only occasionally occur at damaging levels.