



TurfGrass TRENDS



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Intuitive Forecasting of Turfgrass Insect Pests

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One of the most frustrating moments in turfgrass pest management comes when a pest catches you by surprise and causes significant turf damage before you can respond. This may not only be embarrassing; it can also be expensive in terms of lost clients and the cost of remedial measures. Insects are notorious for surprising us and creating a serious problem in a relatively short period of time.

Some insects such as chinch bugs and armyworms usually catch us by surprise as it is. Others such as white grubs may be a little more predictable in time of occurrence, but not necessarily in location. Since they are underground pests, and go about their business unseen to the casual observer, they too can catch us by surprise. With this in mind, one can assume that the most valuable tool a turfgrass manager could have to aid insect management (other than the products used to control the pests) would be a means of predicting their occurrence.

The ability to predict insect pest occurrence isn't necessarily a distant dream. Current research at several universities is providing insight into the making of such forecasts. In this article I'll attempt point out that you may already be doing some predicting of pest outbreaks. Even if you aren't, this article contains guidelines on how to take advantage of our knowledge of insect development and put it to use in your turfgrass business.



Computerized weather recording equipment and remote site sensors have made accumulating weather data much more convenient and has allowed for pest forecasting.

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