during the growing season. Thresholds go down as the stress on the turf goes up, they go down as the pest insect grows into larger and more damaging stages.

Often thresholds are very different from one part of an establishment to another. For example, thresholds on golf courses will vary tremendously with little or no insect activity tolerated on putting greens and tees and more activity accepted in roughs. An athletic field complex may have a couple fields which are designated as "primary" fields. These fields are more aggressively maintained and would have lower action thresholds. A commercial landscaping account

often has particular areas which have been designated as critical - they may be along the entrance drive or surrounding the central building. Turf in these areas is expected to be highly manicured, while less visible, or less highly trafficked, areas can tolerate more activity.

As with much of the challenge of managing turf, the turf manager usually knows the situation better than anyone else. Use all the information available to monitor insect activity and make wise insect management decisions.

Dr. Patricia Vittum is associate professor of Entomology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

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