

# TURFGRASS TRENDS

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## TECHNOLOGY

### Current Trends In Turfgrass Entomology

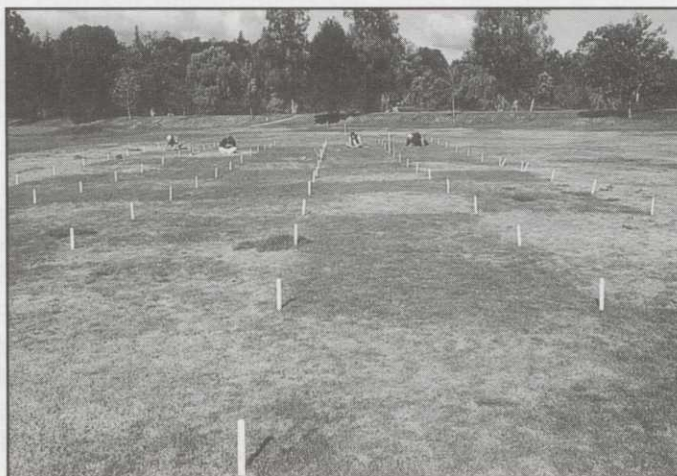
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**T**urf managers in the 1990s have had to change the way they do business. The rising cost of labor has forced managers to develop highly efficient means to get the job done - for example, installing a computerized irrigation system or trimming trees to ease mowing patterns. Many people seem to perceive pesticides as unnecessary poisons and challenge pesticide applications, particularly on turfgrass. At the same time, golfers continue to demand faster and faster putting greens, perfect lies on all the fairways, and beautifully contoured landscapes. A turf manager cannot survive being a "jack of all trades" anymore, but instead must be a "master of all". That manager must use all the training and intuitional skills possible to provide the kinds of conditions expected. This article will focus on insect and insecticide issues, however many of the concepts mentioned here are also equally valid for weed, disease or nutrient management.

### Scouting and Setting Tolerance Levels

Scouting an insect population has become more important for a number of reasons. Pesticide regulations are becoming increasingly restrictive, at the federal, state, and local level, and turf professionals must be able to document the need to apply insecticides. The days of "spray and pray" are gone, and rightfully so. Now a turf manager must know how to monitor insect activity - the appropriate technique, the right time to start looking, and where the trouble spots are likely to show up first.

*Replicated plots  
for grub control at  
Stockbridge, MA.  
Photo by P. Vittum.*



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