

TURFGRASS TRENDS

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ENTOMOLOGY

Annual Bluegrass Weevil A Metropolitan Nightmare

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The annual bluegrass weevil, *Listronotus maculicollis*, is also often called the Hyperodes weevil because it was formerly assigned to the genus Hyperodes. The insect is a major pest of golf courses in the northeastern United States, particularly in the metropolitan New York area, including Long Island; the counties just north of New York City; southwestern Connecticut; and northern New Jersey. However, it has also been reported causing damage on golf courses throughout New England, upstate New York, central and eastern Pennsylvania and around Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

As its name suggests, the annual bluegrass weevil feeds primarily on annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and is particularly damaging on turf with low mowing heights. Damage is usually most severe on collars and approaches, tees, greens and fairways. The weevil can cause damage to fine turf wherever annual bluegrass grows in its perennial form. Since the multiple generations overlap, damage can occur any time from late May through early September. In the metropolitan New York area, the damage is usually most noticeable in early June and again in late July and early August.

Where Weevils Exist

The annual bluegrass weevil has been reported in more than 30 states, but so far is only a problem on fine turfgrass in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states. It was first report-

Typical pattern of annual bluegrass weevil damage along the edge of a collar.



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